Cherokee resident charged with second degree rape

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

Happy New Year 2022

Let us enter the New Year with gratitude for new beginnings

Wishing everybody a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year!

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1172 E. Oklahoma Blvd., Alva 580-327-2552
Robin Drake is the new postmaster at the Kiowa, Kansas, post office. Photo by Yvonne Miller

By Yvonne Miller

In 2012 when Robin Drake started as a window clerk at the U.S. Post Office in Hardtner, Kansas, becoming postmaster was not even on her radar. Then in 2015 she was sent to Kiowa’s post office and moved from a non-career to career employee.

Drake worked under longtime Kiowa Postmaster Cara Smith for five and a half years (both at Hardtner and Kiowa) until Smith’s retirement in April of this year. Nothing happens quickly with the government entity. Drake said the postal department was restructured and had a hiring freeze.

The post office didn’t even accept applications for the new postmaster position until several months later. Drake said she received the good news a few weeks ago and Saturday, Dec. 18, was her first official day as postmaster.

Drake admitted when she first started at the post office, “I had no idea where it would lead me. I think it was just meant to be. I love my job.”

She and her husband Nathan Drake will be married 30 years in February. Drake remembers when she started working for the post office their son David had just graduated from high school. Daughter Holly was in high school and daughters Hailey and Autumn were in elementary. Now Autumn is a senior at South Barber.

Drake complimented the postal crew she works with including: Linda Pulliam, city carrier in Kiowa; Barb Catlin who carries Hazelton and east of Kiowa; and Nick Mayo of Caldwell who carries Hardtner and the outskirts of Kiowa.

“We love our customers,” Drake said. “We wouldn’t have jobs without them. They’ve been supportive and great waiting with me.”

“I’m super excited to be the new postmaster. The post office treats us very well. I like when things are organized. I like to sort mail. I love it all. I love my customer service. I have an awesome job!”

By Stacy Sanborn

Monday’s commissioner meeting in Alfalfa County was brief. Marvin Woodall presided as chairman one last time since it was the year’s last meeting. In January, newest-comer Mike Roach will take over that position.

Woodall, Roach and Jay Hague (joined by County Clerk Laneta Schwerdtfeger and Admin Assistant Nancy Lambert) started the meeting by approving minutes from the last one and accepting payroll warrants, M&O payment warrants, and a blanket purchase order.

The men declared as surplus a 2015 Elson Gopher Getter (Inv. no. D3 358-300, Serial no. G703) and a Minolta C3351 copier (Inv. no. A220-100.04, Serial no. A92F011001918). The copier received signatures on a resolution for its disposal. The commissioners then removed Jennifer Hensley as receiving officer and added Kory Johnson for District 3. They also signed the title sheet for CIRB-202(065)RB Bridge and Approach plans for State Job no. 30436(04) West Clay Creek.

Next, the trio signed approval accepting the state auditor mileage rate for 2022 based on the IRS rate of $0.585 per mile. Commissioners signed approval for the last two items: an error correction transfer of funds from EMS M&O (1304-3-8500-4110) to correct an error of $1,000 and lastly, the reconciliation between the treasurer and county clerk through Nov. 30.

Correction from last week: Cale Gibson was added as a District 2 requisitioning officer.
NEW • SOLD - 160 Acres - NW¼- 3-25-14, Woods Co., Okla. This tract consists of 158 Acres of good cropland. **PRICE: $384,000.00**

NEW • SOLD - 320 Acres - W½ - 11-25-14, Woods Co., Okla. - This tract has been sprigged to Ozarka Bermudagrass and has new fences. **PRICE: $840,000.00**

NEW • UNDER CONTRACT - 80 Acres Cropland - S¼ NE¼- 3-25-14, Woods Co., Okla. This 80 Acres is all cropland. **PRICE: $180,000.00**

NEW • SOLD - 196 Acres - 139 Acres cropland - 57 Acres grass, E½ NE¼ & the N½ SE¼ & S¼ SE¼ north and east of the railroad tracks in Section 17-24-11, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: $330,000.00**

NEW • SOLD - 160 Acres - All cropland, new 5-wire fence, new steel corrals, 312 ft. cement bunk line, 2 Ritchie Waterers. Rural water available. NW¼ - 10-25-14 **PRICE: $375,000.00**

NEW • SOLD - 240 Acres - All grassland, new 5-wire fences, 2 Ritchie Waterers, SE¼ & the S¼ SW¼ - 10-25-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: $400,000.00**

NEW • SOLD - 190 Acres - Excellent cropland (Bethany Silt Loam, Tabler Silt Loam Soils), excellent Alfalfa farm, rural water, Lays SW of Capron, OK. 100 Acres in the SW¼ & 90 Acres in the SE¼ of 22-28-13, W.I.M. Woods County, OK. **PRICE: $450,000.00**

NEW-SOLD - 160 Acres - NW¼ - 14-25-14, Woods Co., Okla. This tract consists of 158 Acres of good cropland with great improvements. **PRICE: $400,000.00**

NEW • SOLD - Beautiful lake frontage on Lake Eufaula. Hunting property, 205 Acres, 1 mile lake frontage, pool, shop, 2,440 sq. ft. home, completely remodeled, 410399 E, 1227 Rd., Eufaula, OK. **PRICE: $1,250,000.00**

NEW • SOLD - 160 Acres - All cropland (Pond Creek Silt Loam Soils), SW¼-11-35S-12W, Barber County, Kansas. **PRICE: $450,000.00**

NEW-SOLD - 320 Ac - NW¼ & W½ NE¼ NE¼ NW¼ SE¼ 4-25-12 Alfalfa Co., OK. **PRICE: $800,000.00**

SOLD - 160 Ac. - S½-30-28-12 Alfalfa Co., OK. **PRICE: $780,000.00**

SOLD - 320 Ac. - N½-22-27-13 Woods Co., OK. **PRICE: $900,000.00**

SOLD - 1,421 Ac. - OK-KS Ranch **PRICE: $2,300,000.00**

SOLD - 1,505 Ac. - Sec 9,18,19-27-18 Woods Co., OK. **PRICE: $1,800,000.00**

SOLD - 160 Ac. - NW¼ 33-27-13 Woods Co., OK. **PRICE: $500,000.00**

SOLD - 320 Ac. - E½ 32-27-13 Woods Co., OK. **PRICE: $1,100,000.00**

SOLD - 360 Ac. - Sec 31 & 32-34S-12W Barber Co., KS. **PRICE: $650,000.00**

SOLD - 720 Ac. - Sec 23, 35, & 26-28-20 Woods Co., OK. **PRICE: $900,000.00**

**FOR SALE**

Commercial Property: Between Shepherds & Days Inn Motel on Hwy 64 East of Alva. 3.35 Acres. **PRICE: $300,000.00**

5 Lots (1.86 Acres) - Located on the West Edge of Alva on Hwy 64. Country Club Heights Addition, Great Location for Commercial or Residential Properties. **NEW PRICE: $175,000.00**

Three Lots - Waynoka, OK – Nickerson Golf Course 3 Blocks - Lots 12 & 13 Less 30. **PRICE: $30,000.00**

Vacant Lot - 902 4th Street, New. **PRICE: $35,000.00**

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2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom on main level (1073 sq ft) with the option to complete the partially finished basement for an additional 2 bedrooms & 1 more bathroom (679 sq ft basement). 1 car detached garage, currently a nice workshop. Covered patio and fenced backyard. 807 Locust, Alva. **PRICE: $99,000**

4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, 1,615 sq. ft. main level, plus 450 sq. ft. finished walk-out basement. Two car detached garage. Two living areas. Two fireplaces. Newer flooring, new AC unit, new roof & pergola. 1525 Young, Alva. **PRICE: $164,000**

1,423 sq ft with 3 bedrooms & 1 bathroom. Bonus room for a large office or 4th bedroom! Utility room. 1 car attached carport. Lots of updates! Hardwood, tile & new vinyl flooring. Remodeled bathroom & kitchen. 219 Maple, Alva. **PRICE: $98,500**

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By Marione Martin

What did you do on Christmas Day? A couple of young men from Alva organized, cooked and hosted a dinner for around 500 people. Yes, they had some volunteer help, but it was their idea and their project.

Brothers Max and Joe Parsons got some pointers from Doug Whittet who hosts a similar dinner in Cherokee for Thanksgiving. From all reports, the food was delicious and the whole project was handled efficiently and professionally. The dinner was held at the family business, the 818 Diner in Alva. The word is that they’re talking about plans for next year. See more about the dinner in the Friday Alva Review-Courier.

Some people work on Christmas Day. As I drove back from a visit to family in Ponca City on Dec. 25, I saw convenience stores handling holiday travelers. Law enforcement officers, firefighters and ambulance personnel are on duty and ready to assist those needing help. Hospitals are still operating with medical staff on duty.

Over the years, I’ve worked many holidays. When my husband and I owned KALV-AM, one or both us worked holiday shifts most years. Someone has to be there playing all those Christmas songs. Sometimes I’d take our young daughter along. It’s difficult to find babysitters on holidays.

Marisa thought it was wonderful when she was old enough to be allowed to go in the recording studio and use the turntables to play music. She pretended she was a deejay doing a radio broadcast. She always regretted that we sold the radio station before she was old enough to be on the air for real.

A few of the newspaper staff members worked this Dec. 25 to publish the Sunday Alva Review-Courier. I started around noon and worked to finish a story begun the previous day and then settled in to do the page layout. But problems developed. It’s not fun when you have technical issues on a holiday and most businesses are closed.

First we discovered that all the news we put on our cloud-based server, the news that was to go in the Sunday paper, had disappeared. Luckily, most of it was also saved on computers in the building. I copied those files over, and we were in business.

A little later, I noticed we were still missing some news files. I couldn’t locate backups anywhere. Fortunately, our server keeps backups of files, even those that have been deleted, for a few months. It was a little tricky remembering how to access those, but the files were found and made it in the paper.

Everything proceeded smoothly, and the newspaper layout was finished a little early. Then we discovered that our website was inaccessible. There was some kind of malfunction with the hosting server. We use the website to store the digital newspaper copy for our online subscribers to access. If the website wasn’t working, those subscribers wouldn’t get the paper.

I sent a text message to the company that hosts our website but did not receive a response. We continued to make the plates for the press, running the printing press and preparing the newspapers for delivery either in Alva yards or to the post office.

Still having received no response, I called the boss of the website hosting company. I wasn’t sure he would answer on Christmas, but he responded quickly. He immediately said he was already working on it, and the website would be back online shortly. Happily, he was right. I linked up the newspaper and sent out the link to online subscribers. I hope your holiday was less problem-filled.

I was able to see six of my seven grandchildren on Dec. 24-25 and texted with the one living in Connecticut. Although she’s the youngest grandchild, Addie was delighted to find she’s a fraction of an inch taller than her oldest sister Kat.

We had fun catching up with each other and opened gifts on Christmas morning. Isn’t it interesting how the youngest child seems to have the largest gift under the tree? At age two, great grandson Isaiah has learned the joy of ripping off wrapping paper to see what’s inside.

Jessica, who broke her ankle at the Bedlam football game, is now using a scooter under her knee. Apparently she’s been consigned to food prep at her part-time restaurant job until she becomes more mobile.

It was a fun time catching up on family news and renewing connections. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas holiday, too!
Merry Christmas market watchers! There has indeed been plenty of cheer spread around by the markets this past week! Equities, energy, ags and metals all surged in a shortened trading week leading up to the Christmas holiday. After the prior week of losses stemming from the omicron variant’s spread and a policy change by the Fed Reserve that will be about monetary tightening in the new year with three rate hikes forecast, this week’s green on the screen recouped all and in select cases more of the selloff. Buy the dip they keep saying and it was true ahead of the holiday.

With Christmas falling on a Saturday this year, markets were closed Friday and will have a full week of trading next week leading up to the new year. I think I’m not alone in saying that it is hard to keep track of time since COVID-19 rattled markets and our way of life in early 2020. We will soon reach two years since reality as we know it was forever changed. While there has been plenty of loss associated with this shock to society, I like to try and think of the good that has come from the time altering experience. As we gather with family and friends this holiday season, I encourage us all to think of the good that remains from the utter chaos around us. Our own health and that of family and friends in our midst are even more the greatest gifts this year than the many material things that are exchanged this time of year. In the markets, the bulls are back in charge. Investor optimism and fundamentals are back in the headlines overshadowing the constant media barrage of a new variant that has quickly become the dominant concern. It is important to prioritize health and safety with those with whom we gather, but continue to support small businesses this season and into the new year as they are the ones that drive the economy particularly in rural areas. The grain markets were on fire this week after some concern in overnight and early session trading Monday brought about a dip before upward acceleration. Soybeans broke above the November 17th high, the 200-day moving average and $13.00 resistance this week to reach all the way back to late August highs. Nearby months closed right near session highs on Thursday. Dryness in South America has been the momentum behind this market with signs of continuation. Until meaningful precip is in the forecast that could spark China catch up buying until then, we may see further upside. As I have been communicating with clients, I would advise producers that are under-covered for new crop 2022 to consider protecting downside between this $12.60-12.80 mark on the November contract. US exports this week were right in line with expectations as were corn numbers while wheat exports were at the lower end of expectations. The corn and wheat markets also surged. South American dryness helped push nearby corn contracts above the psychological $6.00 level, seeking out a slightly new high Thursday above the prior session. This brings new crop December 2022 corn futures above $5.50 with the market closing the week with an inside day on the chart suggesting potential break out, in either direction, with continued follow through in that direction come next week. The $5.60 level is resistance on the December 2022 futures contract and looks to be an area for producers to consider protecting downside for next year’s corn and milo crops. With fertilizer prices remaining elevated despite recent sell-off in natural gas, the battle will continue between corn and soybeans to buy acres. I would expect this fight to intensify in the new year depending on how much fertilizer gets applied now in preparation for corn. With corn moving higher and inflationary pressures back on the investor radar, wheat caught a renewed tailwind coming within 30 cents of the most recent November 24th high. Dryness in the US, revised lower export quota in Russia and now export restrictions being announced by the Ukraine, the wheat market fundamentals are back in the bullish camp. Kansas City hard wheat as higher milling quality is likely to remain in the lead across the wheat complex. Until we see moisture in the US wheat belt, I do not expect this market to go much lower. How high is a question, but I do believe there is potential for the front month contracts to go above $9.00 and possibly reach $9.20 to $9.40. KC March futures closed Thursday at $8.61 ½ while new crop July 2022 futures settled at $8.46 ½. However, be vigilant as much has to align for this to happen, which may culminate in the USDA’s January 12th Winter Wheat Seedings and monthly WASDE and Crop Production reports. If you have hedged new crop or locked in physical forward contracts, I would suggest protecting the upside with call options. And don’t forget to PRAY FOR RAIN! The USDA released its monthly Cattle-on-Feed report on Thursday at 2 PM. December 1st on- feed numbers came in slightly less than expected at 99.6 percent of last year versus 100 percent, or unchanged, expected. November placements were slightly greater than expected at 103.6 percent reported versus trade guesses of 103.2 percent. November markets were significantly higher than expected at 105.3 percent reported versus 104.4 percent expected. While some could see this as fairly neutral versus expectations, I would say it has a bullish bias with such a good demand number. Cattle futures managed an impressive recovery this week from last week’s losses. I maintain a positive outlook on feeder futures into mid-to-late spring, but I do advise cattle be protected when purchased or on big moves higher. The uncertainty over the omicron and perhaps other variants could bring volatility to this market at anytime and with cattle timing is critical as stock cannot be as easily held longer as compared to grain. If you’re looking for downside protection while keeping the upside open, I encourage you to consider Livestock Risk Protection (LRP), which I also offer through insurance, in addition to puts and hedges is a great way to protect downside for less premium. It is basically a subsidized put option, but there are other differences as well including the ability to pay the premium after the coverage expires instead of upfront. If you’re ready to trade commodity markets, give me a call at (580) 232-2272 or stop by my office to get your account set up and discuss risk management and marketing solutions to pursue your objectives. Self-trading accounts are also available. It is never too late to start and there is no operation too small to get a risk management and marketing plan in place. Come see me every Thursday sale day at the Enid Livestock Market and let’s talk markets! Wishing everyone a successful trading week!

Brady Sidwell is a Series 3 Licensed Commodity Futures Broker and Principal of Sidwell Strategies. He can be reached at (580) 232-2272 or at brady@sidwellstrategies.com. Futures and Options trading involves the risk of loss and may not be suitable for all investors. Review full disclaimer at http://www.sidwellstrategies.com/disclaimer.
Woods County Fair Board election is set for Jan. 18

By Marione Martin

The county fair board election is coming up, and the Woods County Commissioners passed the resolution calling for the election during Monday’s meeting. Commissioners present for the meeting were Randy McMurry and John Smiley. David Hamil was absent due to illness. County Clerk Shelley Reed also attended.

Reed said the fair board seats up for election in January are currently held by Steve Sheary, Mike Perot and Dakota Province. Candidates must file with Reed in her office at the courthouse between Jan. 10 and 14. The elections will be held at each of the three county commissioner sheds in Alva, Freedom and Waynoka on Jan. 18.

A check has now been received from DLS Underground for a road crossing permit in District 1 so the commissioners approved the permit. DLS installs internet cable.

The commissioners approved the transfer of appropriations from District 2 CIRB to the ETR fund in the amount of $10,000. The commissioners receive CIRB funds from the state each month to use on county roads and bridges. The ETR fund is a revolving no-interest loan account used to finance such things as supplies for road work.

A Dell computer was declared surplus to remove it from inventory. It is no longer used by the assessor’s office and will be thrown away.

The commissioners also approved payroll, warrants, claims and blanket purchase orders.

Traffic stop leads to felony charge

By Marione Martin

A Cherokee woman is facing a child endangerment charge following a traffic stop.

According to court records, on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at approximately 3:17 p.m. Cherokee Police Officer Tristan Hall observed a white SUV traveling westbound on 7th Street along the football field parking lot. The posted speed limit is 15 mph, and radar gave an initial reading of 25 mph and then 26 mph. Hall activated his emergency lights to stop the vehicle.

Hall contacted the driver Rochelle Cunningham and explained the reason for the stop. He noticed the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from Cunningham and asked her to step to the rear of the vehicle. Inside the vehicle were two juveniles later identified as her grandchildren. The male, age 5, was in the rear seat, and the female, age 8, was in the front passenger seat. Neither was seat belted or secured in the vehicle.

While speaking to Cunningham, Hall observed bloodshot eyes, a slight slurring in her speech and the odor of an alcoholic beverage that became stronger as she talked to him. He asked how much she had to drink, and she stated a couple of beers earlier with the last one being at 1:30 p.m. He asked if she would be willing to do a field sobriety test, and she agreed.

According to Hall’s affidavit, Cunningham had difficulty following instructions and difficulty completing the sobriety test. A portable breath test was brought to the scene, and Cunningham agreed to take the PBT. She was unable to perform the test because of not blowing adequately.

Hall asked if there was anyone to come get her grandchildren. Cunningham said the mother was in Oklahoma City. Hall asked dispatch to look up a number for the children’s father. After a message was left with the father, Police Chief McNeil went to the home of the children’s grandfather which was around the corner to have him come get the children. Meanwhile, the children’s father called back and said it was fine for the children to go with the grandfather.

Further attempts to have Cunningham perform the state’s test at the sheriff’s office were unsuccessful, and she refused to take the blood test. She was booked into the jail.

On Dec. 22 Rochelle L. Cunningham, 65, of Cherokee, was charged with child endangerment by driving under the influence, a felony. This crime is punishable by imprisonment for up to four years and/or a fine of $5,000.

She is also charged with driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating substances, a misdemeanor. This crime is punishable by a fine of up to $1,000 and imprisonment for ten days to one year.
160 ACRES - Attica, Kansas. Harper County, trees, native grass, 80 ACRES tillable crop ground. Great hunting! Live creek.. $208,000

NEW - 320 ACRES just east of the Salt Plains Refuge, Hwy frontage, excellent hunting. Grant County/ Alfalfa County line. radio tower on the property currently has a monthly income of $465, renewable in 2025 $575,000

429 ACRES - Coal Creek Ranch - Stuart, OK. 50% hardwoods, 50% grass. 3-ACRE pond. 6+ACRE land. 3.5 miles from famed McAlester Ammunition plant/reserve. EXCEPTIONAL HUNTING/FISHING! $1,179,750

440 ACRES Western Woods County, live creek, pasture, tillable ground, rough woods, ponds, GREAT HUNTING PROPERTY! $627,000

745 ACRES - Woods County. New Ponds, Food Plots! $1,115,000

800 ACRES Muddy Boggy - Coal County, OK - Beautiful, diverse property with four ponds and live creek. Big Whitetails! $2,120,000

880 ACRES - Just south of Soldwater, Kansas. Big whitetail property! Several 200" plus deer harvested in the area $1,330,000

900 ACRES - Southern Illinois, HUNTER'S PARADISE, Ohio River fly way, Duck holes with well, flooded timber. Trophy Whitetails, planted food plots, 5 tower stands, 20 minutes from Paducah, KY. $2,500,000

900 ACRES - Smithland (western) Kentucky, Lodge, shop, large fishing lake, several Boone Crockett whitetails harvested, and (2) over 200". Must see! $4,500,000

930 ACRES - Coolidge River Ranch- Arkansas River, 175 irrigated tillable ground, full circle pivot. Whitetail, Elk, Turkeys, waterfowl! BIG MULE DEER! 10 miles to Holly, CO. Hunting is phenomenal!!! $2,200,000

1,126 ACRES - Anthony, Kansas - native pasture, 2 miles of bluff creek, great for farming, cattle and trophy whitetail hunting. (UNIT 15) 472 tillable ACRES, several ponds. $2,477,200

1,185 ACRES - Barber Co., Kansas - Unit 16, Trophy Whitetails, Grassland and Good Fences, Ready for Cattle $2,014,500

1,480 ACRES - CATTLE RANCH FOR SALE - WOODS COUNTY, HWY 64 Frontage - Very scenic property not far from Cimarron River in Freedom. Native pasture, canyons, live creek, 250 ACRES of tillable crop ground, electricity, big set of corrals. Good roads thru property. Very unique and diverse property. MUST SEE! $2,100,000

NEW - 7,765 ACRES on Lake McAlester, Oklahoma. Beautiful Tumkey Cattle ranch. Currently 1,000 pairs, could carry 1,700 head. 4 homes, barns, shop, pens. Lush hay meadows, scenic views of lake McAlester are second to none. MUST SEE! $20,800,000

GREAT PLAINS LAND CO. is Licensed in OK, KS, CO, TX, NM, IL
A Cherokee man has been charged with second degree rape due to his alleged relationship with a juvenile.

Court documents show on Nov. 29 about 7:35 p.m. Cherokee Police Officer Tristan Hall was informed by Chief McNeil about a video that was brought to his attention. The video was of a juvenile female stating she had a sexual relationship with an adult male, and she appeared to be upset because he was denying the relationship. In the video, the juvenile identifies the male as Colby Wilson.

On Nov. 30, Hall asked the juvenile and her father to come to the police department. When they arrived, Hall asked the juvenile to tell about her relationship with Wilson. She stated she first started hanging out with Wilson with another juvenile female, and that Wilson was encouraging the juvenile to cuddle with her. She stated Wilson did cuddle with her.

She said the next time she went to Wilson’s residence, he begged her for approximately an hour and half for sex. She stated she gave in because she was annoyed. When asked how many times they had sexual intercourse, she stated four or five with the last time being the Thursday before Halloween. She said they had not exchanged any pictures but they did send text messages which they deleted. She stated Wilson would call her to hangout, and they would end up having sex because he would beg her.

The juvenile stated Wilson was giving alcohol to minors, and said she had smoked marijuana at his residence with him one time. In her statement, she mentioned going over to Wilson’s residence with her younger sister and a friend, both of whom are juveniles, and they were drinking alcohol. She stated the younger sister came into the room once while she and Wilson were having sex. When Hall asked the sister, she said she had her eyes closed and was looking away when she went in there to get her sister’s phone.

On Dec. 1 Hall contacted Wilson and asked him to come to the police department to talk. When he arrived, Hall asked him what he had been up to lately. Wilson mentioned work and hunting. During the conversation, Wilson was relaxed and leaning slightly forward.

Hall then informed him that it was regarding the video that was posted about him. Wilson sat up straight in his chair. Hall asked his relationship with the juvenile who posted the video, and Wilson said there isn’t one. Asked why she would be saying this, Wilson said she was mad at him because he wouldn’t hang out with her. When asked if he was ever alone with her, Wilson said no.

When asked if he ever had any juvenile females at his residence, Wilson said yes and gave the name of the juvenile in question and her sister. When asked about a third juvenile, he said yes. Wilson said he stopped hanging out with them because he realized it was a bad idea because something stupid could happen.

When Hall asked what he meant by something stupid, he stated he had guns and alcohol in the house and he would go to Jiffy Trip while they were there and they could get curious. Wilson first agreed to provide a written statement and started to do so. However, he read the form and said he didn’t have to fill it out. Hall thanked him for coming in, and Wilson left.

On Dec. 13 in Alfalfa County, Colby Ray Carter (Wilson), 23, of Cherokee, was charged with rape – second degree. This crime is punishable by imprisonment of one to 15 years. Carter was jailed on Dec. 14 and posted bond. His next court appearance is Jan. 5.
## HUNTING COUNTRY REAL ESTATE LLC

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<td>$560,000</td>
<td>NEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Ottawa Co, OK</td>
<td>Income Producing, Corn-Alfalfa, Oil&amp;Gas</td>
<td>$950,000</td>
<td>NEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>405</td>
<td>Ottawa Co, OK</td>
<td>High Yield Cropland in Welch, Oklahoma</td>
<td>$1,750,000</td>
<td>NEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>Ripley Co, MO</td>
<td>40-acre Private Lake &amp; Improvements</td>
<td>$1,390,000</td>
<td>under contract</td>
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<tr>
<td>3032</td>
<td>Roosevelt Co, NM</td>
<td>J-Lu Dairy Portales New Mexico</td>
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<td>149</td>
<td>Sumner Co, KS</td>
<td>NW4 of Sec. 1-30S-2W Ninnescach River</td>
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<td>$287,000</td>
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<td>360</td>
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<td>160</td>
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<td>SE4 of Sec. 15-35S-8W</td>
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<td>280</td>
<td>Woods Co, OK</td>
<td>Mult Legal Desc.</td>
<td>$840,000</td>
<td>NEW</td>
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<td>Harper Co, KS</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>Grant Co, OK</td>
<td>W/2SW of Sec. 23-27N-7W</td>
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<td>525</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Alva, OK</td>
<td>16-unit New Construction Apt Complex</td>
<td>Call for price</td>
<td></td>
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<td>640</td>
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<td>N/2 of 21-4N-22E &amp; W/2 of 30-4N-23E</td>
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<td>363</td>
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<td>Mult Legal Desc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>Hamilton Co, KS</td>
<td>Mult Legal Desc.</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Obituaries**

**DeANNA MAE MORELAND GOODIN**

DeAnna Mae Moreland Goodin, age 83, departed her earthly temple on December 26, 2021, to be absent from the body and present with the Lord. She was born on a farm northwest of Freedom, Oklahoma, on April 2, 1938, during Oklahoma’s worst snow storm ever recorded, with snow drifts as high as roof tops. It took Dr. Simon three hours to make the 30-mile trip from Alva, Oklahoma. DeAnna was the fourth child born to Sherman Walter and Gayel Ritter Moreland who were longtime Alva residents. They preceded her in death along with her sisters, Leona Knight and Zona Raveill and brother, Jim Moreland. She is survived by her sister, Bonita McCoy and brother, Ron Moreland.

In 1961, DeAnna was married to Charles Goodin in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They moved to Lubbock, Texas, to open a branch office for Globe Life in 1962. To this union was born son Derek and daughter Shawna Kaye. Shawna preceded her mother in death in March, 1985, in a motorcycle accident during her first spring break. DeAnna worked tirelessly in the support group for bereaved families, The Compassionate Friends, over many years. “Nana” as the grandkids called her, recently moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to be closer to her son Derek and wife Valerie and grandkids, Reed and Sydney. She was “Aunt Dee” to nephews and nieces, Dennis, Gayla, Zoe, Arah Sue, Debbie, Celesta, Jesse Sherm, Michelle, Craig, George, James, Jason, Carol, Larry, Doug, Jonathan, Billy, and all their children.

DeAnna graduated from Alva High School in 1956 where she was an active Goldbug, becoming FFA Queen, Drum Majorette, Class Treasurer and President of the 4H Club. She moved to Oklahoma City three days after graduation, working for a finance company for 6 years until moving to Lubbock, Texas. During her single days in Oklahoma City, she was in the Miss Oklahoma City pageant and was an active member of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority. Over the years, she loved coordinating Alva High School class reunions and remained very close with her classmates. She taught Sunday school and served in many roles as a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and later the Church of the Servant. As a long time Warr Acres resident, she enjoyed bowling with the Putnam City bowling league for many years and playing Bunco with all her great Red Hat friends. As her friends know, DeAnna enjoyed having a good time. She loved dancing, traveling, laughing, socializing, throwing a good party, and taking more pictures than you could ever look at. She was very kind and over the years never missed the opportunity to send birthday cards and notes to her family and friends. Recently in her retirement center, she remarked to her granddaughter that there was still time for her as she had just gotten a marriage proposal on her 83rd birthday. DeAnna’s giving heart and friendship will be missed by all of her many close friends and family.

The celebration of her life will be Thursday, December 30, 2021, at 10 a.m., at Mercer Adams Funeral Service in Bethany, Oklahoma. DeAnna requested that it be a boots and western attire event.

To share a memory or condolence, visit www.mercer-adams.com.

**KIM KIMBRO**

Kim Kimbro passed onto his next home, December 23, 2021, at the age of 72, living his life to the fullest until the last minute on his farm.

Kim was born in Waynoka, Oklahoma, and loved living in Woods County. After high school he tried his hand at college, but it wasn’t for him. After that he followed in his family’s footsteps and became a Marine, making it to E5 within a very short time and gained the highest level of marksmanship. Most of his time in the service was spent in California and Japan, and he had many stories to tell from his adventures. His service was an honor he carried his entire life as anyone that knew him could see by the belt buckle he always wore.

After leaving the Marines he returned to Waynoka where he met the love of his life, Debbie Eggleston, and they were married within the year. Kim began working for the Santa Fe Railroad like his father and grandfather, starting on the paint gang and quickly became a bridge Foreman.

A few years into their marriage, after being blessed with their oldest two children, Tisha and Brett, they decided to buy the farm in Waynoka to raise their kids. Kim would joke that he had to go back to work to rest as his weekends were spent working hard on the farm.

Then the family all decided we needed another person to love, so we had another baby, as Dal was born. Our family of five was now complete.

Just as much as he worked hard, he enjoyed making time with his family taking breaks, fishing, and shooting. We all enjoyed being outdoors and the farm was always our haven.

Poppy was an amazing grandpa. He would spend time loving on the grand babies playing on the floor when they were little and talking with them as they grew. Each of his nine grandchildren were special to him in their own way.

Kim was like an encyclopedia. Any information he gleaned from various sources was often topic in his many conversations as he could make conversation with anybody. He never met a stranger. Poppy could also make or repair anything that was broken on the farm or at work and was always ready to help his family with their many projects.

His entire family is heartbroken but better people because he was with us for so long.

Kim would like for all of us to honor him by taking a kid fishing, hunting or teaching them about firearms.

Kim’s wishes were for his wife and children to have a private celebration of life at a later date.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.marshallfuneralhomes.com.
Still no action on City of Kiowa consideration of drone purchase

By Yvonne Miller

Kiowa’s City Council held a special meeting December 20. The first part of the meeting was specified as a budget hearing. This was to adopt the city’s 2022 budget. No one from the public attended the budget hearing so the council approved and signed the budget and moved into their special meeting agenda.

Mayor Bill Watson called the meeting to order with a quorum issue. Councilmember Tom Wells joined by phone until council president Brian Hill arrived. Other members present included: Janet Robison, B.J. Duvall and Jason Thayer. City Administrator Sam Demel attended as did City Clerk Sheila Smith.

The purchase of a drone for Kiowa’s Police Department was one of the reasons the special meeting was held. Earlier Police Chief Travis Peterson told council the county agreed to pay half of the total cost, estimated at $7,999.

Some council members again expressed their concern about privacy issues and security. They mentioned distrust in the China-made company.

Mayor Watson said, “I think it’s a waste of taxpayer’s money. I’m against it.”

Chief Peterson said, “The county and city attorneys have no problem with a drone for the city.” He added that Mike Loreg of EMS is trying to set up a drone program. Discussion continued but no action was taken.

Solar contracts were on the agenda. The council discussed some aspects, such as who would inspect the solar panels. No action was taken.

In final action, the council authorized Demel to adjust the employee wage adjustment for 2022.

Oklahoma governor says he has no plans to receive booster

By Sean Murphy

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, who was the nation’s first governor to confirm that he got COVID-19, said he doesn’t plan to get a booster shot even though state health officials are encouraging vaccinated people to do just that.

When asked by a reporter Monday if he plans to get a vaccine booster, the Republican governor responded: “No, probably not.”

“I’m perfectly healthy, and my doctor hasn’t told me I need to get it,” said Stitt, who contracted COVID-19 in July of 2020 and received Johnson & Johnson’s single-dose vaccine in March.

Stitt’s stance on getting a booster comes even though the state’s public health agency and medical community are encouraging Oklahomans to get vaccinated for COVID-19 or to get a booster if they’ve already been vaccinated.

“The best way to gather with confidence and protect against severe illness is to get vaccinated and get your booster shot,” Interim Health Commissioner Keith Reed said in a statement last week. “Eligible, unvaccinated individuals should consider getting the vaccine as quickly as possible and fully vaccinated individuals who have not yet gotten a booster shot should seek that out.”

Federal health officials also have been urging all eligible Americans to get booster shots as quickly as possible, as the country faces a surge in the highly contagious omicron variant. Both Moderna and Pfizer have said that booster shots of their COVID-19 vaccines appear to offer protection against the new strain, which preliminary evidence suggests can better evade vaccines than previous variants.

Stitt got vaccinated in March after health officials opened vaccine eligibility to everyone in the state ages 16 and older. At the time, he said he hoped that receiving his shot publicly would encourage people who might be hesitant to get vaccinated.

Only about 53% of Oklahomans are fully vaccinated, which is well below the national average of 61.8% and far behind Vermont’s first-in-the-nation rate of 77.3%, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But the vaccine and public health efforts to promote it have often drawn the ire of some conservatives. When former President Donald Trump revealed during an event in Dallas last week that he received a vaccine booster, the crowd boomed him.

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State legislatures in US poised to act on abortion rights

By Wilson Ring

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Early in the new year, the Vermont House of Representatives is due to begin debate on an amendment that would enshrine the right to abortion in the state constitution and send the question to voters in the fall.

Because the process began two years ago, it’s a coincidence that Vermont lawmakers will be considering the Reproductive Liberty Amendment while the U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case that could severely erode a right that has stood for half a century.

The pending decision in that case, expected in mid-2022, means it’s not just Vermont with abortion on the legislative agenda. State legislatures across the country will be responding to the possibility of seismic change to the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion across the U.S. Republican-led legislatures are ready to further restrict or ban abortions outright while Democratic-led ones are seeking to ensure access to abortion in their state law.

Supporters of the proposed Vermont amendment had the possible loss of Roe in mind when they began the process in 2019 to enshrine “reproductive autonomy,” including abortion, in the constitution.

“In my mind, there should be no question where Vermont stands with regard to its core values and fundamental rights,” said Democratic state Rep. Ann Pugh, who chairs the committee that will hold hearings on the proposal as early as January. “And for those rights and responsibilities and values to be protected more definitively, they need to be enshrined in our state constitution.”

A far different approach is being considered in Kansas. Republican state lawmakers have placed on the state’s Aug. 2022 primary ballot a proposed constitutional amendment that would overturn a 2019 state Supreme Court decision. That ruling declared abortion access a “fundamental right” and part of a woman’s inherent right to bodily autonomy.

The amendment would say that the state constitution provides no right to abortion and that the Legislature can regulate it however lawmakers see fit — which means if Roe v. Wade is overturned, Kansas lawmakers could ban abortion completely.

In California, lawmakers are expected to consider a plan in the coming year to make the state a “sanctuary” for those seeking reproductive care. That could include paying for travel, lodging and procedures for people from other states where abortions have been restricted or perhaps outlawed.

“A abortion has always been contentious,” said Mary Hahn Beerworth, of the Vermont Right to Life Committee, which is opposing Vermont’s abortion-rights amendment. “In every state legislature across the country, in every political election, abortion rises to the top. It’s one of the most identifying issues of our time.”

At least 20 states, mostly across the South and Midwest, already have laws that would severely restrict or ban abortion if the high court overturns Roe and leaves the issue up to the states, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a reproductive rights think tank.

Earlier this year, Republican lawmakers in at least half a dozen states said they planned to introduce legislation modeled after a new Texas law that effectively bans abortion about six weeks after conception. The law is written in a way that is intended to circumvent the federal courts by leaving enforcement up to individuals rather than the state. They hope it provides a pathway to enacting the kind of abortion crackdown they have sought for years.

In Mississippi, Republican state Sen. Chris McDaniel said earlier this year he would “absolutely” consider filing legislation to match the Texas law after a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court let that law stand, at least for now.

“I think most conservative states in the South will look at this inaction by the court and will see that as perhaps a chance to move on that issue,” he said.

More than a dozen states, plus the District of Columbia, have statutory protections in place for abortion rights, said Elizabeth Nash, a state policy analyst with the Guttmacher Institute.

That includes Massachusetts, where the Democrats who control the legislature earlier this year approved a bill over the veto of Republican Gov. Charlie Baker codifying abortion rights into state law.

Yet even in California, which already has adopted several measures to protect abortion access, a pro-choice group laid out 45 steps that could be taken to further protect those rights.

“There is a lot of work to be done in order to shore up abortion rights and access,” Nash said.

Efforts to further restrict access are not just coming from more traditionally conservative parts of the country. The state budget New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, a Republican, signed in June contains a provision prohibiting abortion after 24 weeks of gestation, with exceptions for the mother’s life or physical health. It takes effect Jan. 1, just before the start of the new legislation session.

And Republican lawmakers, who control New Hampshire’s legislature, are drafting several abortion-related bills, including one that would prohibit the procedure after the detection of a fetal heartbeat. A mother would allow the biological father of an unborn child to seek a court order prohibiting a woman from having an abortion. A third would repeal the prohibition against remaining on a sidewalk adjacent to an abortion clinic.

Nash said a handful of states have interpreted their state constitutions as protecting abortion rights, but Democrats in Vermont want to be certain.

The proposed amendment does not contain the word “abortion.” Proponents say that’s because it is not meant to authorize only abortion, but also would guarantee other reproductive rights such as someone’s right to get pregnant or have access to birth control.

“There’s a lot of support for this in the legislature,” said Lucy Leriche of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. “I think the reason seems pretty clear to me at the moment. We’ve had this right for almost a half a century to reproductive liberty, and people don’t want to see us go backwards.”
US move to shorten COVID-19 isolation stirs confusion, doubt

By Zeke Miller and Katie Foody

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials’ decision to shorten the recommended COVID-19 isolation and quarantine period from 10 days to five is drawing criticism from some medical experts and could create more confusion and fear among Americans.

To the dismay of some authorities, the new guidelines allow people to leave isolation without getting tested to see if they are still infectious.

The guidance has raised questions about how it was crafted and why it was changed now, in the middle of another wintertime spike in cases, this one driven largely by the highly contagious omicron variant.

Monday’s action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cut in half the recommended isolation time for Americans who are infected with the coronavirus but have no symptoms. The CDC similarly shortened the amount of time people who have come into close contact with an infected person need to quarantine.

The CDC has been under pressure from the public and the private sector, including the airline industry, to shorten the isolation time and reduce the risk of severe staffing shortages amid the omicron surge. Thousands of flights have been canceled over the past few days in a mess blamed on omicron.

“No all of those cases are going to be severe. In fact, many are going to be asymptomatic,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said Monday. “We want to make sure there is a mechanism by which we can safely continue to keep society functioning while following the science.”

CDC officials said the guidance is in keeping with growing evidence that people with the virus are most infectious in the first few days.

Louis Mansky, director of the Institute for Molecular Virology at the University of Minnesota, agreed there is a scientific basis to the CDC’s recommendations.

“When somebody gets infected, when are they most likely to transmit the virus to another person?” he said. “It’s usually in the earlier course of the illness, which is typically a day or two before they actually develop symptoms and then a couple of days to three days after that.”

Research, including a study published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine in August, backs that up, though medical experts cautioned that nearly all of the data predates omicron.

The CDC released a report Tuesday on a cluster of six omicron cases in a Nebraska household and found the median incubation period — the time between exposure and the appearance of symptoms — was about three days, versus the five days or more documented earlier in the pandemic. The six people also experienced relatively mild illness.

But other experts questioned why the CDC guidelines allow people to leave isolation without testing.

“It’s frankly reckless to proceed like this,” said Dr. Eric Topol, founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute. “Using a rapid test or some type of test to validate that the person isn’t infectious is vital.”

“There’s no evidence, no data to support this,” he added.

Mansky said CDC probably didn’t include exit testing in its guidelines for logistical reasons: There is a run on COVID-19 rapid tests amid the spike in cases and the busy holiday travel season. In many places, at-home tests are difficult or impossible to find.

The CDC is “driven by the science, but they also have to be cognizant of the fact of, you know, what are they going to tell the public that they’ll do,” Mansky said. “That would undermine CDC if they had guidance that everybody was ignoring.”

Qamara Edwards, director of business and events for Sojourn Philly, which owns four restaurants in Philadelphia, said about 15% of its employees are out sick with COVID-19, and staffing is tight.

The CDC changes are “great for businesses, they do allow people to return to work sooner than they’ve expected,” Edwards said, though she understands why workers might be resistant and worried about their safety.

In Los Angeles, King Holder, who runs the StretchLab Beverly fitness business, likewise said omicron has caused “ample disruption” to his company, and he welcomed the more relaxed guidelines.

“The possibility of five days compared to 10-14 days is huge for our business and allows us to stay afloat,” he said.

But Dana Martin, a 38-year-old Philadelphia teacher and educational consultant, said: “The looser COVID guidelines make me nervous. I’m more hesitant to participate in holiday activities because of the omicron variant and the seemingly more lax protocols.”

Marshall Hatch, senior pastor of New Mount Pilgrim Church on Chicago’s West Side, said he is bracing for some confusion in his congregation. The church has been a strong advocate for testing, vaccinations and booster shots.

Hatch said the CDC’s latest guidance is confusing and “a little incongruous.”

“Either we’re in a surge that we need to take very seriously or are we winding down the pandemic and that’s why we’re shortening the isolation and quarantine times,” he said Tuesday. “They might want to give us a little more information to go with.”

Hatch said some members of the largely Black congregation, particularly senior citizens, are skeptical of information from government.

The CDC move follows global efforts to adjust isolation rules, with policies differing from country to country.

England last week trimmed its self-isolation period for vaccinated people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to seven days in many cases, provided two negative lateral flow tests are taken a day apart.

The French government said Monday that it will soon relax its isolation rules, although by exactly how much isn’t yet clear.

Health Minister Olivier Veran said the rule changes will be aimed at warding off “paralysis” of public and private services. By some estimates, France could be registering more than 250,000 new infections per day by January.

Italy, meanwhile, is considering
Some Chieftain Football Players Get All-State Honors from KSHSAA
Two South Barber seniors received KSHSAA All-State Honors. They are:

Ruston Erickson, line, 5’11”, 220 lb.  
Gatlin Jewell, running back, 6’, 190 lb.

HONORABLE MENTION

Offensive/defensive back Briggs Jewell, so., South Barber

Offensive/defensive Antonio Vasquez, sr., South Barber;

Offensive/defensive end Caden Rathgeber, sr., South Barber
As Briar Rose in Sleeping Beauty, South Barber Drama Class student Zoe Bougoukalos takes time to smell the flowers. Photo by Yvonne Miller

Instead of the witch’s house of sweets to attract unsuspecting children, Grandpa tells about the house of broccoli. The wicked witch (Lynzee Wilbur) cages in Hansel and Gretel (Arrington Allen and Cash Thomas.) This was from a performance of South Barber High School’s Drama Class play “Best Bedtime Stories (as told by our Grandpa) (He’s silly)” by Ed Monk. Photo by Yvonne Miller

Grandpa is the star of this show. Played by Kyler Ferrell, old Grandpa needs to get his grandchildren to sleep and he knows he’s got to tell them some bedtime stories to make that happen. Out of practice, Grandpa’s stories get a little twisted and hilarious. Jaden Allen plays one of his granddaughters listening to the confusion. This was from a performance of South Barber High School’s Drama Class play “Best Bedtime Stories (as told by our Grandpa) (He’s silly)” by Ed Monk. Photo by Yvonne Miller

This door decorated with a message of Merry Christmas from around the world won the contest at South Barber High School. It’s Spanish and art teacher Kade Tucker’s door to her room.
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Experts pull documents, money from Lee statue time capsule

By Sarah Rankin

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Conservation experts in Virginia's capital Tuesday pulled books, money, ammunition and other artifacts from a time capsule found in the remnants of a pedestal that once held a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The lead conservator for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Kate Ridgway, said the measurements and material of the box, copper, match historical accounts. As the contents inside were unpacked, they appeared to match the description of the 1887 time capsule they had been looking for.

"It does appear that this is the box we expected," she told reporters.

Records maintained by the Library of Virginia suggest that dozens of Richmond residents, organizations and businesses contributed about 60 objects to the capsule, including Confederate memorabilia.

The box was discovered and carefully extracted from the monument site a day earlier, marking the end of a long search for the elusive capsule. Ridgway said the box, which weighed 36 pounds, was found in water in a little alcove of the pedestal. The contents were damp, but "it’s not soup," Ridgway said.

"I think it’s in better shape than we expected," she said.

Historical records had led to some speculation that the capsule might contain a rare and historically significant photo of deceased President Abraham Lincoln. One line from a newspaper article listed among the contents a "picture of Lincoln lying in his coffin."

On Tuesday, conservators found a printed image from an 1865 issue of Harper’s Weekly in the time capsule that Ridgway said seemed to show a figure grieving over Lincoln’s grave — but did not appear to be the much-anticipated photo.

Harold Holzer, a historian and Lincoln scholar, had previously told The Associated Press he believed it highly unlikely that the time capsule contained an actual photograph of Lincoln in his coffin because the only known photo of Lincoln in death was taken by photographer Jeremiah Gurney in City Hall in New York on April 24, 1865.

The contents of the tightly packed box had expanded from the damp and stuck together, making unpacking difficult, so conservators decided to relieve pressure by cutting down one side.

"Not ideal, but it’s the way it is," Ridgway said.

After Ridgway and other team members meticulously extracted each object, other conservators would then cart the pieces to the back of the lab for further study and cataloging. The team made sure to photograph each object in the box before manipulating it.

Many of the paper items were damaged from water and time but still at least partly legible.

Along with several waterlogged books, pamphlets and newspapers, the box contained an envelope of Confederate money, which conservators carefully separated, and two carved artifacts — a Masonic symbol and a Confederate flag said to have been made from the tree that grew over Gen. Stonewall Jackson’s original grave.

Conservators also pulled buttons, coins and Minié balls, a type of bullet used in the Civil War, from the box. A bomb squad had checked the capsule Monday, partly to make sure there was no live ammunition.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam ordered the enormous equestrian statue of Lee removed in 2020, amid the global protest movement sparked by the police killing of George Floyd. Litigation pushed back his plans, and the statue was not removed until September, after a court cleared the way.

Contemporaneous news accounts from the late 1800s detailed the placement of the time capsule in the foundation of the pedestal, and imaging tests conducted earlier this year appeared to confirm its existence. But a lengthy search during the September statue removal came up empty.

Earlier this month, Northam ordered the pedestal removed as well, and crews working on the project again started to search for the artifact. A time capsule was discovered two weeks ago, generating excitement, but hours of painstaking and ultimately anti-climactic examination suggested that artifact was placed by someone else, perhaps someone involved with the construction.

From Page 17

Isolation

doing away with a quarantine altogether for those who have had close contact with an infected person as long they have had a booster shot. Projections indicate as many as 2 million Italians could be put in quarantine over the next two weeks as the virus spreads.

The U.S. airline industry applauded the CDC move.

"The decision is the right one based upon science," said the lobbying group Airlines for America.

But the head of a flight attendants union criticized the change, saying it could lead businesses to pressure sick employees to come back before they are well.

If that happens, "we will make clear it is an unsafe work environment, which will cause a much greater disruption than any ‘staffing shortages,’” warned Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA International.
Mom: 14-year-old shot by LA police ‘died in my arms’

By Stefanie Dazio, Christopher Weber and Morgan Lee

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A 14-year-old was shopping for Christmas clothes last week with her mother when the pair heard screams and hid in a dressing room, where the girl was fatally shot by Los Angeles police after an officer fired a rifle at a suspect and a bullet pierced a wall, the family said Tuesday.

Valentina Orellana-Peralta died in her mother’s arms last Thursday at a Burlington store in the San Fernando Valley’s North Hollywood neighborhood. Her family said the teen loved skateboarding and had dreams of becoming an engineer to build robots.

After screams broke out in the store the day before Christmas Eve, the teenager locked the dressing room door.

“We sat down on a seat, holding each other, praying, when something hit my daughter, Valentina, and threw us to the floor,” Soledad Peralta said Tuesday. “And my daughter died in my arms. I couldn’t do anything.”

The teen’s family stood outside Los Angeles Police Department headquarters on Tuesday, next to a large photo of Orellana-Peralta wreathed in flowers, to call for justice and remember their daughter.

Speaking in Spanish and choking back tears as sirens wailed in the background in downtown L.A., they said they had left Chile to get away from violence and injustice in search of a better life in the U.S.

The LAPD on Monday posted an edited video package online that included 911 calls, radio transmissions, body camera footage and surveillance video from the Thursday shooting at a store crowded with holiday shoppers. The department’s policy is to release video from critical incidents, such as police shootings, within 45 days.

The family’s attorneys — including civil rights lawyer Ben Crump — have sent a letter to the LAPD asking for more video.

Surveillance video showed the suspect attacking two women, including one who fell to the floor before he dragged her by her feet through the store’s aisles as she tried to crawl away.

Multiple people including store employees called police to report a man striking customers with a bike lock. One caller told a 911 dispatcher that the man had a gun. No firearm — only the bike lock — was recovered at the scene.

The early surveillance footage showed a man carrying a bicycle up the store’s escalator to the second floor, where he wandered around, seemingly disoriented, clutching a cable-style bike lock. At times he stood motionless, staring into the distance.

The footage later showed the man on the down escalator attacking a woman, who managed to escape his grip and run out of the store.

The man then left the store for a minute and a half, police said. After he returned, according to the video, he repeatedly beat a woman with a bike lock while she cowered on the floor. As she tried to escape, he dragged her through the aisle toward the dressing rooms.

In bodycam video, armed officers entered the store and approached the suspect. One held a rifle and pushed to the front of the pack as the officers went through the store in formation.

Other officers repeatedly said “slow down” and “slow it down” as the officer with the rifle moves forward.

“She’s bleeding!” an officer shouted as they encountered the victim, crawling on the blood-stained floor. The suspect was on the other side of the aisle.

“Hold up! Hold up!” another officer screamed just before three shots rang out.

The officer holding the rifle fired, police said.

The 24-year-old suspect, Daniel Elena Lopez, died at the scene. Soledad Peralta’s screams can be heard in the video.

“At this preliminary phase of the investigation, it is believed that the victim was struck by one of the rounds fired by an officer at the suspect,” police Capt. Stacy Spell said in the posted video. Police believe the bullet skipped off the floor and struck the dressing room wall.

The California Department of Justice is also investigating.

“We at the LAPD would like to express our most heartfelt condolences and profound regret for the loss of this innocent victim, Valentina Orellana-Peralta. There are no words that can describe the depth of the sorrow we feel at this tragic outcome,” Spell said in the video.

LAPD officers have shot people 38 times — 18 of them fatally, including the shooting Sunday of a man with a knife — in 2021, according to the Los Angeles Times. Those figures mark a dramatic rise in cases where officers shot or killed people in either of the last two years.

Mourners left flowers and a votive candle outside the store on Christmas in a memorial for Orellana-Peralta. Her family said she earned good grades, even though English was her second language and she’d only been in the U.S. for about six months.

Her father, Juan Pablo Orellana Larenas, already had purchased tickets to relocate to the U.S. when he learned of his daughter’s death. They were planning to go to an NBA basketball game — she was a fan of star LeBron James — and see a favorite band perform, he said.

Orellana Larenas held up a brand-new skateboard, still in its plastic wrapping, that his daughter had ordered online. It was delivered after she died.

The family plans to leave the skateboard at her grave “so that she can skate with the angels,” her father said.

The Times reported that Elena Lopez’s previous criminal history includes convictions for car theft, carrying a loaded gun in public and carrying a gun as a felon. Authorities would not release his history in the state prison system, citing the ongoing investigation.

The woman who was assaulted had moderate to serious injuries, including wounds to her head, arms and face. She has not been named publicly.

LAPD officers also killed a bystander in 2018, during a gunfight with a suspect at a Trader Joe’s market. Police fatally shot Melyda Corado, 27, the assistant store manager, as she ran toward the store’s entrance. Prosecutors found two police officers acted lawfully when they returned the suspect’s gunfire.
By Zeke Miller

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol has agreed to defer its attempt to get hundreds of pages of records from the Trump administration, holding off at the request of the Biden White House.

The deferral is in response to concerns by the Biden White House that releasing all the Trump administration documents sought by the committee could compromise national security and executive privilege.

President Joe Biden has repeatedly rejected former President Donald Trump’s blanket efforts to cite executive privilege to block the release of documents surrounding that day. But Biden’s White House is still working with the committee to shield some documents from being turned over.

Trump is appealing to the Supreme Court to try to block the National Archives and Records Administration, which maintains custody of the documents from his time in office, from giving them to the committee.

The agreement to allow some Trump-era records away from the committee is memorialized in a Dec. 16 letter from the White House counsel’s office. It mostly shields records that do not involve the events of Jan. 6 but were covered by the committee’s sweeping request for documents from the Trump White House about the events of that day.

Dozen of pages created Jan. 6 don’t pertain to the assault on the Capitol. Other documents involve sensitive preparations and deliberations by the National Security Council. Biden’s officials were worried that if those pages were turned over to Congress, that would set a troublesome precedent for the executive branch, no matter who is president.

Still other documents are highly classified and the White House asked Congress to work with the federal agencies that created them to discuss their release.

“The documents for which the Select Committee has agreed to withdraw or defer its request do not appear to bear on the White House’s preparations for or response to the events of January 6, or on efforts to overturn the election or otherwise obstruct the peaceful transfer of power,” White House deputy counsel Jonathan Su wrote in one of two letters to the committee obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Su wrote that for the committee, withholding the documents “should not compromise its ability to complete its critical investigation expeditiously.”

Committee spokesman Tim Mulvey said: “The committee has agreed to defer action on certain records as part of the accommodations process, as was the case with an earlier tranche of records. The Select Committee has not withdrawn its request for these records and will continue to engage with the executive branch to ensure the committee gets access to all the information relevant to our probe.”

For the last several months the National Archives has been transmitting tranches of documents to the White House and to lawyers for Trump to determine whether they contain any privileged information. Trump has raised both broad objections to the release of the documents as well as specific concerns about particular documents.

The National Archives has said that the records Trump wants to block include presidential diaries, visitor logs, speech drafts, handwritten notes “concerning the events of January 6” from the files of former chief of staff Mark Meadows, and “a draft Executive Order on the topic of election integrity.”

Biden has repeatedly rejected Trump’s claims of executive privilege over those documents, including in a letter sent Dec. 23 regarding about 20 pages of documents.

“The President has determined that an assertion of executive privilege is not in the best interests of the United States, and therefore is not justified,” White House counsel Dana Remus reiterated in the latest letter.

Trump has taken to the courts to block the document releases. A federal appeals court ruled this month against Trump, and he has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court, though the high court has yet to decide whether to take up the case.

Judge Patricia Millett, writing for the court in the Dec. 9 opinion, said Congress had a “uniquely vital interest” in studying the events of Jan. 6 and Biden had made a “carefully reasoned” determination that the documents were in the public interest and that executive privilege should therefore not be invoked. Trump also failed to show any harm that would occur from the release of the sought-after records, Millett wrote.

“On the record before us, former President Trump has provided no basis for this court to override President Biden’s judgment and the agreement and accommodations worked out between the Political Branches over these documents,” the opinion stated.
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DA: No charges for Cuomo from allegations by 2 women

By David Porter and Jennifer Peltz

NEW YORK (AP) — Former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo won’t face criminal charges stemming from allegations from two women — including a state trooper — that he planted unwanted kisses on their cheeks, a suburban prosecutor said Tuesday. It’s the latest in a series of decisions about whether a raft of sexual assault and harassment claims against Cuomo will end up in criminal court.

Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah said that while there was evidence to conclude the conduct the women described did occur, she couldn’t bring criminal cases over it.

“In both instances, my office has determined that, although the allegations and witnesses were credible, and the conduct concerning, we cannot pursue criminal charges due to the statutory requirements of the criminal laws of New York,” Rocah said in a statement.

Cuomo had no immediate comment on the decision. The Democrat has denied sexually harassing anyone or touching anyone inappropriately and has said he doesn’t recall touching the trooper.

A number of prosecutors around the state launched investigations after state Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, chronicled accusations from 11 women against Cuomo. The August report led to his resignation from office, although he has attacked the findings as biased and inaccurate.

In October, the Albany County sheriff’s office filed a misdemeanor groping complaint against Cuomo, but a week later the district attorney asked a judge for more time to evaluate the evidence.

The district attorney said the sheriff’s one-page criminal complaint, based on allegations from a woman who said Cuomo slid his hand up her blouse and grabbed her breast at the governor’s mansion in late 2020, was “potentially defective.”

At the prosecutor’s request, a court delayed Cuomo’s scheduled arraignment until Jan. 7.

Last week, a Long Island prosecutor said Cuomo wouldn’t face criminal charges after the same trooper as in the Westchester investigation said she felt “completely violated” by his unwanted touching at an event at Belmont Park in September 2019. Acting Nassau County District Attorney Joyce Smith said the allegations were credible and troubling but not criminal under state law.

The alleged Westchester County incident involving the trooper happened outside Cuomo’s then-home in Mount Kisco, according to the district attorney’s office. The trooper told investigators that while stationed in the driveway as part of Cuomo’s security detail in summer 2019, she asked the governor if he needed anything, and he responded by asking her whether he could kiss her.

“I remember just freezing, being — in the back of my head, I’m like, ‘Oh, how do I say no politely?’ Because in my head, if I said no, he’s going to take it out on the detail. And now I’m on the bad list,” she told investigators, according to James’ report.

So, she said, she told him, “Sure.” He kissed her on the cheek, while saying something like “Oh, I’m not supposed to do that” or “Unless that’s against the rules,” she told investigators.

A male colleague told investigators he witnessed the episode, the attorney general’s report said.

The trooper hasn’t been publicly identified. A message seeking comment was sent to a lawyer for her.

In the other incident that Westchester prosecutors examined, Cuomo allegedly greeted a woman by grabbing her arm, pulling her toward him and kissing her on the cheek without asking whether that was OK. She was attending a press conference he gave at White Plains High School in June 2018.

“I smiled nervously afterward. I had to endure comments from people in attendance,” the woman, Susan Iannucci, told reporters at a virtual news conference in August.

Iannucci, a school office manager, said she came forward because she was appalled to see Cuomo use a photo of the encounter in a compilation video that he released to argue that he commonly greeted people with kisses, touches and hugs “to convey warmth.”

A message was sent Tuesday to a lawyer for her.

The Associated Press does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they decide to tell their stories publicly.

Tenant gets $35,000 after emotional support dog dispute

NASHUA, N.H. (AP) — A company that owns and operates offices and apartment complexes in Massachusetts and New Hampshire agreed to pay $35,000 to a tenant in Nashua who was denied permission to keep an emotional support dog, federal prosecutors say.

The John J. Flately company was accused of violating the Fair Housing Act by refusing to accommodate the tenant’s disabilities of anxiety and depression, acting U.S. Attorney John Farley said Tuesday.

Without admitting liability, the company agreed to pay the tenant $35,000, enact reasonable accommodation policies for its New Hampshire residential properties, and complete training about the housing act. An attorney for the company was not available for comment Tuesday about the consent decree.
OKLAHOMA CITY — In keeping with an annual tradition, Oklahoma State Parks will again host First Day Hikes on Jan. 1, 2022. The free, guided hikes present an opportunity to begin the New Year on a healthy perspective by getting outdoors, connecting with nature and promoting year-round recreation.

Twenty state parks will host guided hikes on New Year’s Day. Park staff and volunteers will lead the free hikes.

Although not all Oklahoma State Parks are hosting guided hikes, the parks department encourages all guests to take the opportunity on Jan. 1 to hit the trails and walk their way to health on their own time. Guests should take advantage of bicycle and equestrian trails and golf courses for fresh air and recreation. All Oklahoma State Parks are open for outdoor visitors.

Parking will be free at all Oklahoma State Parks on Jan. 1, 2022.

Guided First Day Hikes will be held in the following western Oklahoma State Parks. All park contact numbers and hike information can be found at TravelOK.com.

- Alabaster Caverns, Freedom: Meet at the park office at 2 p.m. for an easy hike on the Healthy Heart Raptor’s Roost Trail. Leashed pets are allowed. Hot chocolate will be available afterward. 580-621-3381
- Black Mesa, Kenton: Meet at 2 p.m. at the north end of the group camp for a moderate to strenuous, 1.25-mile hike on the Rock Garden Trail. Excellent views of Lake Carl Etling along the trail. Leashed pets allowed. 580-426-2222
- Boiling Springs, Woodward: Meet at 2 p.m. at the trailhead of the River Trail for a moderate, 1-mile hike. 580-256-7664
- Foss State Park, Foss: Meet at the Cedar Point shelter at 2 p.m. for a moderate, 2-mile hike on the Great Western Trail. 580-592-4433
- Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf: Meet in front of the lodge lobby at 11 a.m. for the first hike on the Sunrise Trail, a 0.5-mile loop with moderate difficulty (some portions are steep). Hike #2 meet at 2 p.m. at the park office to caravan to the Baldy Point Trail, a 2-mile total hike to the summit of Baldy Point. Moderate to moderately strenuous trail. Some portions are steep, elevation gain is roughly 300 feet. Pets allowed. 580-563-2238.
- Roman Nose State Park, Watonga: Meet at 1pm in the lodge lobby for a moderate, 1.5-mile hike on the Canyon Spur Trail. Pets on leash are allowed. 800-892-8690.

Hikers should remember to wear weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable shoes. Bring a camera or binoculars for wildlife viewing; and don’t forget water and snacks. Pets on leash are welcome at most hikes. Participating Oklahoma State Parks encourage visitors to stay and explore other areas or enjoy the quiet beauty of the parks in the wintertime.

In the event of inclement weather, information about cancellation of hikes will be available by calling the state park listed or check the Oklahoma State Parks page on Facebook at Facebook.com/OklahomaStateParks.
Immigrants welcome Afghan refugees, inspired by own journeys

By Janie Har
SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Tram Pham tears up recalling how tough life was at first in the U.S. But she also remembers the joy she felt as a 22-year-old refugee from Vietnam when a nurse spoke to her in her native language and guided her through a medical screening required of new arrivals.

Nearly three decades later, Pham hopes to pay that comfort forward as a registered nurse at the same San Jose, California, clinic that treated her family. The TB and Refugee Clinic at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center is screening people from Afghanistan who began seeking asylum in the U.S. after American troops withdrew from the country in August.

Pham can’t speak Farsi or Pashto. But she can soothe patients stressed out over the job they can’t find or the rent that’s due. The other day, she held the hand of an older Afghan woman as she cried out her fears.

“I can see patients from all over the world come in. I see, you know, Vietnamese patients. I see a lot of refugee patients,” she said. “I see myself.”

The TB and Refugee Clinic joins a vast network of charities and government organizations tasked with carrying out President Joe Biden’s plan to relocate nearly 100,000 people from Afghanistan by September 2022. Nearly 48,000 Afghans have already moved off U.S. military bases and settled in new communities, the U.S. Department of State said in an email, including more than 4,000 in California.

The operation has been hampered by the need to scale up quickly after steep cutbacks to refugee programs under President Donald Trump. But the community response has been overwhelming and enthusiastic, said K’Rish O’Mara Vignarajah, president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of nine national resettlement agencies.

“We know that resettlement isn’t a weeklong or monthlong process. Success requires years of effort. And so that’s where it’s really important to have strong community ties,” Vignarajah said.

The nonprofit, which operates in at least two dozen states, has resettled roughly 6,000 newly arrived Afghans since summer, including 1,400 in northern Virginia, 350 in Texas, 275 in Washington and Oregon and 25 in Fargo, North Dakota.

The state of Oklahoma has received about half of the 1,800 people it was told to expect, said Carly A’Kard, spokeswoman for Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City. A’Kard said that in their rush to escape, many of the refugees arrived without identification.

“They fled and didn’t have anything,” she said.

In San Jose, the clinic is scrambling to hire more people and reallocate staff for the more than 800 people expected in the county through September. Not only is the number a large increase from the 100 people the clinic assessed in all of the last fiscal year, it is uncertain when they will arrive, said health center manager Nelda David.

But David said that won’t stop the staff of roughly three dozen from rolling out the welcome mat at the clinic, founded four decades ago specifically to assist Southeast Asians after the Vietnam War. Most of the nurses, assistants and other staff are immigrants or former refugees themselves, and understand the shock of starting over in a new country.

Medical interpreter Jahannaz Afshar welcomes Farsi speakers at the front door even before they check in for their first visit. In a windowless office, she explains what to expect over at least four visits as part of a comprehensive health assessment, which includes updating immunizations and checking for infectious diseases. A medical exam is required of all refugees.

But Afshar, who moved from Iran in 2004, also explains cultural differences, such as the American preference for personal space and chitchat. She’ll tell newcomers how to take the bus or use the public library, and reassure them that in the U.S., people help without expectation of getting anything in return.

Most staff members are bilingual, and come from a number of countries, including China, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Mexico, said Mylene Madrid, who coordinates the refugee health assessment program. But staff can help even without speaking the same language.

An Afghan woman was tense and nervous when she arrived the other day for her first medical exam. By the end of the hourslong visit, however, she was cracking jokes and sharing photos with public health assistant Nikkie Phung, who had fled Vietnam decades earlier with her family.

A new arrival from Afghanistan dropped by the clinic complaining of chest pains but was so anxious she couldn’t elaborate on her symptoms. Phung, the nurse, asked if she could hold her hand. They sat as the woman sobbed, then finally spoke of the stress of having her entire family living in a cramped hotel room.

By then, her pains had receded. Phung noticed that the woman’s daughter and son-in-law were upbeat and more comfortable speaking English. She pulled the daughter aside.

“Would you please spend time with your mom?” she asked her. “Talk to her more.”

Staff members have gone out of their way to connect patients to jobs, furnish empty apartments and tap the broader community for rent and other relief. They’ve stocked diapers for babies and handed out gift baskets at Thanksgiving. During a routine visit, a patient mentioned he needed car repairs for work. Within weeks, the clinic had raised $2,000 to give him.

“Your heart is different,” says Jaspreet Mann, an assistant nurse manager originally from India, of immigrants’ desire to help.

Afshar says she can’t imagine what refugees are going through. The former apparel designer and her husband were not fleeing strife and shootings when they chose to leave Iran. And yet, she too struggled at first.

“And this is one of the things that I always share,” she said. “That even though it’s going to be hard, later you’re going to be happy because ... you’re going to learn so much and you’re going to grow so much.”

At the clinic, she hops on the phone to arrange an eye exam for Mohammad Attaie, 50, a radio technician who fled the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul, this summer with his wife, Deena, a journalist, and their daughter, Sana, 10, adores her new school in San Jose but the couple worry about finding work when they can’t speak the language.

Still, seeing people like Afshar and Pham gives them confidence.

“They are successful. They’re working here. Their language skills are good. I am hoping that in less than a year I can stand on my feet,” Deena Attaie said, speaking in Farsi.
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Governor, legislative leaders expect flat budget in 2022

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt and legislative leaders said Monday that despite record-high revenue available to spend next year, they expect most state agency budgets to remain flat.

Budget projections presented to the State Board of Equalization, a state panel led by Stitt, show there will be more than $10.3 billion available to spend for the fiscal year that begins July 1. But Stitt and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Roger Thompson said after the meeting they want to keep at least $2 billion in reserves. The Legislature last year appropriated about $8.3 billion and set aside more than $700 million in savings.

“We’ll continue to invest where we can invest this year, but we’ll also be fiscally responsible to make sure we don’t put ourselves in a bad situation this time next year,” Stitt said.

Stitt’s office will use the estimates approved on Monday to build his executive budget recommendation that he will present to the Legislature at the start of the legislative session in February. Stitt said his budget proposal will emphasize funding for health care, education, infrastructure and attracting more businesses to the state.

The Board of Equalization will meet again in February to determine the final amount of revenue that will be available to spend on next year’s budget.

As part of last year’s budget agreement with the governor, the Legislature agreed to cut Oklahoma’s top individual income tax rate from 5% to 4.75%, which is expected to cost the state $170 million annually when fully implemented. They also slashed the corporate income tax rate from 6% to 4%, which is expected to cost about $110 million annually. Those new tax rates are scheduled to take effect Jan. 1.
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SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Oklahoma heads into the Alamo Bowl against Oregon with all eyes on quarterback Caleb Williams, searching for answers about his future and whether it will be with the Sooners.

For now, the fact that he will play Wednesday night against the No. 15 Ducks (10-3) is certainly as good a sign as any for No. 14 Oklahoma (10-2).

Williams has been mum on his plans since the sudden departure of coach Lincoln Riley for Southern California. But he has made no known moves, either, even with quarterbacks elsewhere hitting the transfer portal and some of his teammates already on the way out.

Incoming Sooners coach Brent Venables — who is not coaching the game — has said he’d be “surprised” if Williams leaves Oklahoma wide receiver Marvin Mims, who has also been asked about his future, notted the players who stayed for the bowl game are showing they are engaged.

“I definitely want to be here,” Mims said this week. “I’m pretty sure everybody playing in this bowl game wants to be here, too.”

That would presumably include Williams?

The freshman took over the starting job from Spencer Rattler when the Sooners were trailing rival Texas. Williams led the comeback victory and never let go of the position while passing for 18 touchdowns and running for several more over seven games. Rattler has since transferred to South Carolina.

The Texas game embodied all the potential in the former No. 1 recruit in the nation. Williams ran for a 66-yard touchdown and threw a 50-yard TD as Oklahoma rallied from 21 points down, the largest comeback in the history of the Red River rivalry.

Oregon interim head coach Bryan McClendon called Williams "probably the best playmaker in the country at quarterback ... he is a phenomenal player."

Watching all of this play out is Sooners interim coach Bob Stoops, who came out of retirement for one game before Venables takes over. Stoops, who won a national championship and coached four quarterbacks who were Heisman Trophy winners or finalists at Oklahoma, knows a little bit about how to read a quarterback and his teammates.

"The players love him," Stoops said. “He’s practiced every day with energy, always ready to go, always got a bright, happy demeanor about him."

**Missing Pieces**

Both teams come in with key players from the 2021 season missing as some transferred or chose not to play in the bowl game while preparing for the NFL draft. The Sooners will be without four starters on defense, most notably linebacker Nic Bonitto. The Ducks are without three defensive starters, including All-American edge rusher Kayvon Thibodeaux and cornerback Mykael Wright.

**Run Game Playmakers**

Both teams bring 1,000-yard rushers. Oklahoma's Kennedy Brooks is averaging 111 yards per game and is just the fourth Sooners running back to top 1,000 in three separate seasons. Oklahoma's Travis Dye has rushed for 1,118 yards and also leads the Ducks in receptions with 41. He needs 42 yards against the Sooners to become just the fifth Ducks players to reach 3,000 in a career.

**Bowl Bookends**

While Oklahoma's Williams makes his bowl debut, Oregon quarterback Anthony Brown's bowl experience dates to 2018 when he played in the storm-shortened First Responder Bowl with Boston College. That game was canceled in the first half because of bad weather. After transferring to Oregon, he played in last season's Fiesta Bowl loss to Iowa State. His 3,320 total yards this season led the Pac-12.

**Turnovers**

Oklahoma has forced 21 fumbles, which is tied for best in the nation, after forcing just three in all of the 2020 season. The Sooners have just as good protecting the ball, losing just three fumbles all season.

**Interim Coaches**

Stoops has a long history of success as a head coach with the 2000 national championship, 10 Big 12 titles and a 9-9 record in bowl games. McClendon’s only other experience as a college head coach was as the interim for Georgia in the 2015 TaxSlayer Bowl. Stoops was asked if he’d like to be doused with tequila after the game if he wins (he has a business partnership with a tequila company).

"That'd be OK," Stoops said. “What’s the administration gonna do? Fire me?"
By Manuel Valdes

SEATTLE (AP) — The Pacific Northwest and Sierra Nevada mountain range grappled Tuesday with another day of snow, ice and unseasonable cold that has disrupted traffic, caused closures and forced people to find refuge in emergency warming shelters.

Across western Washington and Oregon, officials and private groups opened emergency spaces for people as forecasters said the extreme cold from an arctic blast that blew in Sunday could last until the weekend.

Farther south, part of the main highway from San Francisco to Reno remained closed Tuesday for a third day due to record-setting snow in the Lake Tahoe area after a winter storm blasted across northern California and Nevada.

Snow-choked Interstate 80 shut down Sunday from the Nevada state line to Placer County, California, although Caltrans said U.S. 50 reopened late Monday for vehicles with chains or four-wheel drive.

And with temperatures in normally mild Seattle dropping well below freezing, Kaety West walked a short distance in the snow from the tent where she usually stays to find refuge at a small warming center at an American Legion hall.

“I’m not even willing to stay in it right now. It’s just so difficult,” she said of her tent on Monday.

Snow showers began in the Northwest on Sunday from the Gulf of Alaska, dumping up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) across the Seattle area. Another storm dropped more snow in western Washington and Oregon late Monday and Tuesday.

The region continued to break daily cold records. The National Weather Service said the low was 17 degrees F (-8.3 C) in Seattle on Monday, breaking a record set in 1968. Bellingham, Washington, plunged to 7 F (-13.9 C) on Monday, tying a record set in 1968.

In Seattle, the city said garbage pickup was canceled for Tuesday, as side streets remained treacherous. And another round of snow was predicted for the Seattle and Portland, Oregon, areas on Thursday.

State officials in Oregon have declared an emergency. In Multnomah County — home to Portland — about a half dozen weather shelters were open. Seattle city leaders also opened at least six severe weather shelters and the mayor declared an emergency.

Warming shelters in Multnomah County were around 75% full on Monday night, with 339 people.

“We had about 100 beds free, but also expect more people to seek shelter with colder temps and snow,” Kate Yeiser, a spokesperson for the county, said Tuesday.

Utilities reported about 5,000 customers without power Tuesday morning, mostly in southwestern Oregon.

At Donner Pass in the Sierra, officials with the University of California, Berkeley’s Central Sierra Snow Laboratory on Monday said recent snowfall has smashed the snowiest December record of 179 inches (4.6 meters), set in 1970. The record is now 193.7 inches (4.9 meters) as more snow is expected.

The snowpack in the Sierra was at dangerously low levels after recent weeks of dry weather but the state Department of Water Resources reported on Monday that the snowpack was between 145% and 161% of normal across the range with more snow expected, which will help in a region experiencing a protracted drought.

With temperatures in western Washington and Oregon not forecast to rise above freezing for days, officials were planning on keeping emergency shelters for longer than initially expected.

Seattle leaders said city shelters will remain open through the new year. At the shelter where West went to get warm, American Legion Hall Post 160, there was room for about a dozen people.

Keith Hughes of the American Legion said the capacity is limited by lack of volunteer staff.

“Volunteers, this is a problem for myself as well as everyone else in town, it’s really hard to get with COVID going on,” he said, adding there were plans to keep the space open for about 10 days.

“The longer it goes on the harder it’s going to be on people that don’t have a place to get out of this.”

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With AFC West title in tow, Chiefs look toward bigger things

By Dave Skretta

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs will never take for granted winning their division, which they’ve now done six straight times, but a thorough thrashing of the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday night served notice to the rest of the league.

The Chiefs have their sights set on a much bigger prize.

Along with breaking the record for consecutive AFC West titles, the Chiefs (11-4) also maintained their place a game ahead of Tennessee and atop the conference standings with two games left in the regular season.

That would give them a coveted first-round bye while ensuring all of their playoff games would take place in Arrowhead Stadium.

“We’re not going to pull off. We’re going to keep going,” said Chiefs coach Andy Reid, who’d already moved on from their 36-10 rout of the Steelers by Monday and was looking ahead to next weekend’s trip to Cincinnati.

“This is a very important game against a good football team. We have to make sure we’re prepared for that,” Reid said. “We don’t have a cushion like in years past. That’s not the way it is this year.”

Still, the Chiefs are no doubt feeling good after an eighth straight win bagged them another division title. John Madden’s legendary Raiders teams managed five straight in the AFC West in the 1960s and ’70s, as did the Broncos with Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning — and Tim Tebow — under center in the early 2000s.

The Chiefs’ dominance might not approach that of New England, which won a record 11 straight divisions with Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, but it’s nevertheless an impressive feat in a league that prides itself on parity.

“This year as much as any, if you look at the AFC West, every team is still battling for a playoff spot,” Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said.

“It’s a tough division to be in, and we have to win the AFC West to be where we want to be. We have more goals that we want to go after, but this is the first one. And now we have to build some momentum to the next.”

That would be securing the No. 1 seed, which could happen as early as this weekend if the Chiefs beat the Bengals and the Titans lose to the Dolphins.

Otherwise, they may need to beat the Broncos in their regular-season finale to wrap it up.

“One of our goals on our list we want to accomplish — the first goal we want to accomplish — is to always win the AFC West,” Chiefs wide receiver Mecole Hardman said. “We have more goals we want to accomplish down the road. That is just one of the goals we needed.”

What’s Working

Just about everything. The Chiefs scored on their first four offensive possessions against Pittsburgh and would have gone 5 for 5 had fill-in kicker Elliott Fry not missed a field-goal try. On defense, the Chiefs forced two punts, picked off a pass, got a turnover on downs and forced Pittsburgh to miss a field goal in the first half alone.

What’s Not

The Chiefs were put in a tough spot when punter Tommy Townsend and unvaccinated kicker Harrison Butker tested positive for COVID-19. Fry was a spotty 3 of 4 on field goals and 3 of 4 on extra points, and Townsend’s brother Johnny was shaky in his place. The Chiefs could need both of them to perform better against the Bengals.

Stock Up

The Chiefs got Tyreek Hill back from the COVID-19 list on Saturday, but with tight end Travis Kelce unable to test out of protocol, the Steelers doubled Hill and he managed just two catches for 19 yards. That opened up the field for Byron Pringle, though, and he responded with six catches for 75 yards and two touchdowns.

Stock Down

The Chiefs hoped Josh Gordon could rediscover the All-Pro form he had early in his career, particularly with Hill and Kelce slowed by the virus. But he was targeted three times and failed to catch a pass, dropping one that hit him on the hands.

Injuries

Clyde Edwards-Helaire, who scored early in the game against Pittsburgh, left after two carries early in the second half with a collarbone injury. He was undergoing additional testing Monday, but the Chiefs could be forced to lean on Darrel Williams and Derrick Gore for the foreseeable future. The Chiefs also could get Jerrick McKinnon back from injured reserve.

On the defensive side, safety Tyrann Mathieu came up hobbled in the third quarter when the player he was defending made a quick cut to the middle of the field. Mathieu remained in the game for a while, but eventually left with a quad injury.

Key Number

2 — Hill needs just two more receptions to break Kelce’s single-season franchise record of 105 set last season. His total of 104 is already the most in a season by a wide receiver in Chiefs history.

Next Steps

The Chiefs visit the AFC North-leading Bengals on Sunday, Cincinnati routed the Ravens over the weekend behind a big day from Joe Burrow, who threw for 525 yards and four touchdowns. The Bengals can clinch their division title if they beat the Chiefs and the Steelers lose to the Browns.
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Miscellaneous
Happy New Year
Let’s all enjoy 2022. Scribner Salvage made it and I hope you did too!

Alfalfa County Sheriff’s Office logs

Tuesday, December 21, 2021
During this day there were three traffic stops.
8:32 a.m. - Welfare check for an elderly female walking south on Kansas. Negative contact was made.
5:53 p.m. - Caller advised her dad’s house had been broken into in the 600 block of Maple. Advised her dad was in a nursing home. She stated she went to go get his car, and she had the only set of keys to his house. She then advised her sister and her boyfriend broke the door lock. It had happened a week ago because they were looking for a check book or cash. She advised the sister wrote checks with her dad’s checkbook.

Wednesday, December 22, 2021
During this day there were two traffic stops.

See Sheriff Page 36
9:19 a.m. – Medic needed for a female with Parkinson’s having shortness of breath. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

10:12 a.m. – Report of a rollover 2 miles east of Byron on Latimer Road. Medic took a patient to Share Medical Center.

1:54 p.m. – Deputy needed in Carmen for a civil matter with a grandmother and granddaughter.

3:02 p.m. – Report of a panic alarm going off at the Bank of Kremlin in Goltry. Everything was fine advised they were messing with the alarm.

3:45 p.m. – Report of smoke, no flames, on Custer Road and County Road 580.

7:15 p.m. – Medic needed for a male with chest pains. Medic took the patient to St. Mary’s Hospital in Enid.

Thursday, December 23, 2021

12:40 a.m. – Caller wanted an officer to come to her house. Advised she was receiving harassing and blackmailing text message. Officer spoke with the reporting party and will meet with her in the morning.

4:08 a.m. – Medic needed for a female who fell and possibly broke her hip. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

7:23 a.m. – Medic needed for a lift assist. No transport needed.

11:43 a.m. – Report of a reckless driving headed east on US-64.

Friday, December 24, 2021

During this day there was one traffic stop.

8:16 a.m. – Report of a tank on fire on County Road 670 and 2 miles south of Latimer Road.

1:29 p.m. – Report of dogs fighting and they will not leave their porch in the 400 block of Colorado. Dog was taken to the vet.

2:18 p.m. – Report of a possible drunk driver headed west on OK-45.

3:50 p.m. – Caller advised they think someone poisoned his dog.

9:38 p.m. – Caller advised his brother broke into his house. Advised his brother was playing video games and had another male with him and they both were high. Caller advised they had left and headed towards Grand. Officer had one male detained.

Saturday, December 25, 2021

11:40 a.m. – Medic needed for a male having a possible heart attack. Medic took the patient to St. Mary’s Hospital in Enid.

1:41 p.m. – Report of a grass fire on OK-45 and Blaine.

6:29 p.m. – Caller advised there were four cars following him from sheriff’s department to 2 miles past Dollar General. He advised he even turned around and they all turned around and followed him. He came to the sheriff’s office and was stating
he had been followed since Aline. Officer advised with the new information it would make a county issues. Deputy followed the male to the county line and all was okay.

9:13 p.m. – Medic needed for a female with shortness of breath and legs were really swollen. No transport needed.

Sunday, December 26, 2021

During this day there was one report of cattle out and one traffic stop.

3:29 p.m. – Report of a white Toyota Tacoma being suspicious and driving too fast on a dirt road. Advised the vehicle headed back towards Cherokee. Deputy made contact. Advised they got appeared to have been lost.

7:58 p.m. – Medic needed for a female that needed to go to the hospital. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

8:56 p.m. – Medic needed for a lift assist in the 100 block of 6th Street.

Alfalfa County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 876 page 876: Cleo State Bank vs. Lynette Cressler and Ross Cressler. A tract of land situated in the southwest quarter of section 11, township 26N, range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 876 page 887: Thomas Glenn Evans and Cheryl Lynn Evans, unto Thomas Glenn Evans and Cheryl Lynn Evans, as trustees of the Tom & Cheryl Evans Revocable Trust. A tract containing 1.24 acres, more or less, located in the southeast quarter of section 33, township 28N, range 9, WIM, Alfalfa County Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 876 page 890: Thomas Glenn Evans and Cheryl Lynn Evans, unto Thomas Glenn Evans and Cheryl Lynn Evans, as trustees of the Tom & Cheryl Evans Revocable Trust. Lot 4 in block 1 in Aubrey Tatro Addition to the City of Cherokee. Warranty deed.

Mortgages

Book 876 page 859: Chad L. Budy and Danielle F. Budy, to Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma. The southwest quarter of section 33, township 28 north, range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: $422,000.00.

Book 876 page 878: Lynette Cressler and Ross Cressler, to Community Bank. A tract of land situated in the southwest quarter of section 11, township 26N, range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: $31,591.00.
Alfalfa County court filings

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

- Rochelle L. Cunningham, Cherokee, 65, has been charged with child endangerment by driving under the influence. ($369)

**Misdemeanor Filings**

- Rochelle L. Cunningham, Cherokee, 65, has been charged with DUI. (844)
- Brandy Kaye Redmon, Alva, 39, has been charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. ($351.50)

Federal judge grants stay of execution to Oklahoma inmate

By Sean Murphy

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A federal judge in Oklahoma has granted a stay of execution for a death row inmate who was scheduled to receive a lethal injection in March.

In his order last week, U.S. District Judge Stephen Friot agreed to stay the execution of 49-year-old James Coddington. The order reinstates Coddington as a plaintiff in a case with other death row inmates who are challenging Oklahoma’s three-drug lethal injection protocol. A trial in that case is scheduled to begin before Friot in February.

Coddington initially was removed from that case because he failed to select an alternative method of execution that Friot required of the plaintiffs. But Coddington’s attorneys were able to prove to the judge that Coddington had indeed selected firing squad as an alternative method. Firing squad is one of several authorized execution methods under Oklahoma law, along with lethal injection, electrocution and nitrogen hypoxia. Lethal injection has been the only method used in Oklahoma since the death penalty was reinstated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976.

Coddington’s public defender declined to comment on the judge’s order, and a spokeswoman for Attorney General John O’Connor didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Coddington was convicted and sentenced to die for the 1997 hammer killing in Choctaw of co-worker Albert Hale, who prosecutors said had refused to lend Coddington $50 to buy drugs.

States and the federal government carried out 11 executions this year, the fewest since 1988, as support for the death penalty has continued to decline, according to an annual report on the death penalty released earlier this month. Texas executed three inmates and Oklahoma two in 2021. Alabama, Mississippi and Missouri each executed one, and the Trump administration executed three.

Oklahoma once had one of the nation’s busiest death chambers, but a temporary moratorium on capital punishment was put in place in 2015 following three consecutive flawed executions. Oklahoma resumed executions in October with the lethal injection of John Marion Grant, who convulsed and vomited on the gurney after the first drug, the sedative midazolam, was administered.
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