

THE ALVA
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COURIER**

NEWSGRAM

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620 CHOCTAW, ALVA, OKLAHOMA 73717

Burlington BOE
renews
Superintendent
Brown contract

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Alfalfa County BOC discusses uniforms and safety equipment

By Stacy Sanborn

Because of the lack of moisture, the Alfalfa County commissioners voted Monday to keep the county burn ban in place, renewing it another two weeks. Mike Roach, Jay Hague and Marvin Woodall signed those papers and approved last meeting's minutes, payroll warrants, M&O warrants for payment, and a few blanket purchase orders.

The American Rescue Plan Act designated funds from the State of Oklahoma was on the agenda for discussion again. County Clerk Laneta Schwerdtfeger told the men that LeFlore County was told an independent auditor would need contracting regarding the federal funds because state auditors are not doing it. So next week, there should be a class, she said.

Regarding the ARPA funds application process for the cities in Alfalfa County, Roach said he spoke with an employee that morning, and there was confusion on that end. The commissioners, along with Cherokee's City Manager Michael Jones, have been working on getting every city in the county on the same page to apply for the federal funds.

The commissioners opted to sign that contract on the agreement renewal between the Alfalfa County BOC and the City of Cherokee for the Regional Airport, only changing the term to one year instead of the original four. Each year it will have to be renewed.

They also approved the resolution for Fair Board terms. Terms will continue to be three years, with someone coming up for election every year. Next was signing approval for a private property access

easement in District 2 for the NW/4 of 5-25-11 to clean out a channel. They also signed a Juvenile Detention Services agreement between Oklahoma Juvenile Justice Services and Alfalfa County with a modification of eliminating a mistake on the document.

Lastly, the commissioners discussed uniforms and safety equipment with Schwerdtfeger, who said she received a phone call from an employee asking what the allowance was to buy uniforms and safety equipment. Right now, there isn't a dollar amount stated in the handbook on how much county employees are allowed to spend on those items.

The county has a policy requiring uniforms to be worn. If bought by the county, all uniforms must say Alfalfa County somewhere on them and must not be adaptable or worn as ordinary clothes for general use. She recommended the commissioners make a resolution stating what each district would be allowed.

Roach read a state statute stating the county, at the commissioners'

discretion, can pay for any safety training, equipment, or devices for all county officers and employees to be paid out of county general funds or county highway funds. Schwerdtfeger said the lack of a dollar amount was her concern and strongly recommended putting it into writing. Roach replied, saying the fluctuation and increase in prices make it hard to put a definitive number on it. He and Hague said they were happy with things as is.

However, not all employees in Hague's district have Alfalfa County on them, which Schwerdtfeger said could pose a severe problem with the IRS down the road. "If you guys get audited, if we get audited by the IRS, it will be a huge, I'm telling you guys, it will be a huge ordeal. Because if it doesn't have Alfalfa County on there, then it's a fringe benefit, and they're supposed to be paying taxes on it." Commissioners took no action on the matter.

There wasn't any new business, and the meeting adjourned.

Learn about becoming a foster family

There are 1,839 traditional foster homes and 2,024 kinship foster homes in Oklahoma. There are 6,934 children in foster care in Oklahoma. There is a constant need for more

foster families in the state.

If you think you might be interested, you can learn more at Northwest Family Services in Alva on Thursday, Jan. 27. Come and go between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. at 620 Flynn Street to learn more about how you can help children needing a place to stay.

You may also attend the informational session virtually through Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87563942457>

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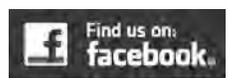
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It's too cold for swimming

By Marione Martin

With cold temperatures and possible snow in the forecast, there may not be much interest in swimming pools right now. However, long range plans are in motion in two Woods County cities to replace their closed WPA-era pools.



Both Alva and Waynoka had swimming pools built by the WPA during the 1930s.

Both were closed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health after inspections revealed several health concerns. Both cities are working on plans to replace those historic pools, but they are approaching the financing in different ways.

A couple of weeks ago, the Waynoka City Council voted to hold a special election on a proposal for a one-cent city sales tax increase to pay for a swimming pool and related facilities. The plan is to build the pool on city-owned property where the old grade school used to stand.

Estimated cost is from just under \$1.4 to \$1.7 million. The old pool would have to be scrapped.

The special election for the sales tax increase will be on April 5. Currently Waynoka has a four-cent (four percent) sales tax.

Meanwhile the Alva City Council is working on a different financing method. An earlier attempt to finance the swimming pool through an ad valorem tax on residents within the city limits was defeated. The city appointed a task force of residents to look at options. They commissioned an engineering firm to investigate the structural soundness of the old swimming pool. It was learned that refurbishing the old pool basin was possible, but the resulting pool would only have a life of five to ten years.

After those findings, the task force was disbanded and a new committee was formed to pursue funding methods. The committee is hoping to fund the project largely through donations. Two big boosts to the funding goals came with a \$500,000 donation from the Washburn family in memory of Cory Washburn and a pledge by the Share Trust to match

donations up to \$1 million.

Now the committee is working on a grant application, due this fall, to seek up to \$750,000 in funding. Preliminary steps for that application have included a public hearing and approval by the Alva City Council.

Another step was taken last week, when the council approved the city business manager and the committee to work out a contract with Kimley Horn, an architecture/engineering service, to come up with project design plans. The contract won't be finalized until the city council votes its approval.

There certainly won't be a swimming pool ready for this summer in Alva. If the Waynoka sales tax is approved, there probably won't be enough time to complete that pool for this year's swimming season either. But there's hope on the horizon for facilities to open soon in both Woods County cities.

By the way, if you would like to contribute to the Alva swimming pool donation fund, you can contact the city office or contact Dr. Kay Decker. The donations are going through Freedom West, a non-profit headed by Decker.

USDA urges producers to submit applications for 2021 Grazing Loss Assistance by Jan. 31

STILLWATER, Okla. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds ranchers and livestock producers that they may be eligible for financial assistance through the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for 2021 grazing losses due to a

qualifying drought or fire. The deadline to apply for 2021 LFP assistance is Jan. 31.

“Severetoextremedroughtconditions in Oklahoma have resulted in significant economic hardships for our agricultural producers and livestock producers are no exception,” said Janlyn Hannah, acting state executive director for the Farm Service Agency in Oklahoma. “If you suffered 2021 grazing losses, you should contact FSA as soon as possible and file your LFP application for payment. 2021 LFP information may be used to deliver upcoming disaster assistance.” For the 2021 program year, 27 counties in Oklahoma have met drought severity levels that trigger LFP eligibility. More than \$473.1 million has been paid, to date, to eligible livestock producers in 26 states and territories for 2021 LFP. For LFP, qualifying drought triggers are determined using the U.S. Drought

Monitor. Visit the FSA LFP webpage for a list of eligible counties and grazing crops.

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers and contract growers who also produce forage crops for grazing and suffered losses due to a qualifying drought or fire during the normal grazing period for the county. Eligible livestock include alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer or sheep that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland during the normal grazing period.

To expedite the application process, producers are encouraged to gather and submit records documenting 2021 losses. Supporting documents may include information related to grazing leases, contract grower agreements, and more.





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160	Kiowa Co, KS	Grassland expired CRP	\$192,000	SOLD
160	Kiowa Co, KS	CRP Hunting	\$248,000	
200	Woodward Co, OK	Hunting Land w/Income Wind Towers	\$395,000	SOLD
11,375	McIntosh Co, OK	FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$21,000,000	
320	Woods Co, OK	Grassland Sec. 19-25N-13W	\$550,000	SOLD
897	Kingfisher Co OK	8 Farms LAND AUCTION	\$2,548,772	Pending
1.9	Taney Co, MO	D'monaco Luxury Resort	\$36,000,000	
2.5	Taney Co, MO	170 Room Hotel Development Project	\$8,500,000	
312	Barber Co, KS	Cropland/Pasture/Pond Hazelton KS	\$546,000	SOLD
194	Kingman Co, KS	Hunting Sections 8&9-30S-7W	\$399,900	
120	Ottawa Co, OK	Income Producing, Corn-Alfalfa, Oil&Gas	\$900,000	
405	Ottawa Co, OK	High Yield Cropland in Welch, Oklahoma	\$1,700,000	
255	Ripley Co, MO	40-acre Private Lake & Improvements	\$1,390,000	
3032	Roosevelt Co, NM	Dairy w/irrigated cropland NM & TX	\$8,500,000	new price
150	Sumner Co, KS	Development/Cropland/River Clearwater	\$879,900	
156	Woods Co, OK	Res/Comm Development near Alva	\$499,000	NEW
360	Lawrence Co, AR	25/ac Private Lake w/house & Hunting	\$1,295,000	
660	Barber Co, KS	Hunting on Little Bear Creek	\$825,000	Pending
80	Grant Co, OK	Cropland 5.5 miles south of Wakita	\$125,000	
525	Wayne Co, MO	135/ac Private Lake - Hardwood Timber	\$2,690,000	
.76	Alva, OK	Other Place Restaurant Bar&Grill	\$450,000	
363	Kingman Co, KS	Lies in Sections 5&8-30S-10W	\$1,200,000	SOLD
275	Kingman Co, KS	Turn Key Recreational Property w/Lodge	\$749,999	SOLD
470	Major Co, OK	Hunting on Cimarron River	\$790,000	NEW
320	Beaver Co, OK	Native Pasture Grazing/Hunting	\$336,000	NEW
1335	Barber Co, KS	Excellent Gyp Hill Hunting Sun City	\$2,100,000	SOLD
6300	Barber Co, KS	Medicine River Hunting Ranch	\$11,000,000	SOLD
300	Seminole Co, OK	Development Grazing near Bowlegs	\$750,000	
40	Barber Co, KS	Hunting land with HOUSE	\$200,000	NEW
80	Barber Co, KS	Hunting Creek Trees & Canyons	\$208,000	NEW
160	Barber Co, KS	Hunting Gyp Hills with Pond	\$366,000	NEW
280	Barber Co, KS	Hunting Pond Trees House	\$744,000	NEW
180	Barber Co, KS	Cultivated cropland near Hazelton	\$315,000	NEW

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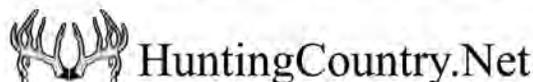
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Burlington School Board has full agenda at January meeting

- Renews Superintendent Brown contract
- Calls Friday 6 p.m. public meeting in gym to discuss new gym, cafeteria, FFA greenhouse, etc.
- Receives 96% of original Target Pipeline-Mid-Con tax protest money
- Board members recognized for years of service

By Yvonne Miller

At Burlington’s January Board of Education meeting last Wednesday, they called a public meeting for this Friday, Jan. 28, at 6 p.m. The meeting is in the gymnasium. The purpose is to discuss a potential bond issue to build a new gym, cafeteria and FFA greenhouse; and remodeling – moving some classrooms into existing structures, etc.

At their January meeting the board heard presentations from two architectural firms for facility construction and remodeling based on needs told to them by Superintendent Kevin Brown. The firms are Easley Associates from Enid and CWA from Norman.

“We want to present this possible bond issue to the public before we move further,” Brown said. The board met in executive session later in the meeting. They discussed the presentations made earlier by the architects. They reportedly identified aspects they liked and

disliked. The board also discussed the bond needed to accomplish any facility planning and building.

They’ll hold a special board meeting on Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. This is to discuss any potential resolutions, and vote on hiring an architect, with the contract to be reviewed by legal counsel prior to entering into a formal agreement with the architectural firm.

President Terry Graham called the meeting to order with three other members present: Robert Hill, April Kisling and T.J. Rockenbach. Aaron Smith was absent. Superintendent Brown also attended, along with High School Principal Gerrett Spears, Elementary Principal Stan Pedersen and Minutes Clerk Tracy Granados. Graham recessed and moved the meeting from the superintendent’s office to the IETV room. Guests were Apryl Burleson, a Burlington teacher; new board member Lindsey Callison; and, from the architectural firms, Roy Easley,

Seth Benson, Clarence Williams, Tim Merchant, Jose Garcia, Stefanie Nini and Tom Barczak.

After the architects’ presentation, the board recessed from the IETV Room and returned to the superintendent’s office to continue the meeting.

Tax Protest Revenue, Superintendent Brown Contract

Brown apprised the board that Burlington School received a settlement on their 2020 tax protest along with their annual tax payment from Alfalfa County. The protest money is from Target Pipeline-Mid-Con who, the superintendent said, is their largest company/contributor in oil and gas revenue. The Target protest money Burlington received is 96 percent of the original tax total, Brown said.

Following executive session, the board renewed Superintendent Brown’s contract for the FY 2022-2023 year with the same terms.

Superintendent Brown presented board members appreciation certificates acknowledging and thanking them for their years of service: Terry Graham – 26 years, Aaron Smith – 10 years, T.J. Rockenbach – 7 years, Robert Hill – 6 years and April Kisling – 3 years.

The board approved the Use of Funds Plan for 795 ESSER III federal funds related to easing the impacts of Covid. Funds will be used for a variety of items including cleaning supplies, technology, door security and refurbishing/remodeling bathrooms in the main building to prevent the spread of germs through the use of touchless features.

Burlington’s daycare director is Megan Ferrell. Due to sickness and other absences, the board hired three part-time assistants to help her besides the existing assistant to ensure adequate staff is available. A daycare handbook is in progress and will need to be finalized.

These encumbrances, change orders and warrants received board approval: General Fund encumbrances 202-220 for \$43,454.22, change order for \$15.80 and warrants 620-710 for \$216,081.85;

See Burlington Page 12

The Burlington Superintendent News
a Monthly Presentation of
Burlington Co-Op
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Obituaries

VICTORIA ‘VICKI’ SUZANNE DEWITT COULTER

Victoria (Vicki) Suzanne DeWitt Coulter was the first born of Henry Boyd DeWitt and Glenda Yvonne Dixon DeWitt on April 19, 1951, in Cherokee, Oklahoma, and passed from this life on January 24, 2022, at her home.



She lived near Helena most of her childhood and teenage years and was a Helena-Goltry High School graduate in 1969. She married Len Coulter on August 12, 1970, and to this union two children were born, Carrie and Jason.

Her life’s passion was serving others – friends, family, and neighbors – and doing God’s work. As a child

she was baptized in and was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Helena until Len was called to be the pastor at the Elm Flat Independent Christian Church located west of Aline and Cleo Springs in 2004. She served the Lord faithfully in both churches doing whatever she could in doing the Lord’s work for each church. She served on many various committees in the church as well as holding numerous positions in the Helena, District and State United Methodist Women’s organization.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Boyd and Glenda DeWitt.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Len Coulter; daughter Carrie Thompson and husband Micah of Oologah; son Jason Coulter of Waukomis; granddaughter Ashley Hill and husband Ben of Owasso; grandson Ryan Thompson and wife Natalie of

Owasso; grandson Blake Thompson and fiancée Kalista Price of Owasso; grandson Kyle Thompson of Oologah; grandson Owen Coulter of Kansas City, Kansas; granddaughter Emma Coulter of Kansas City, Kansas; grandson Liam Coulter of Kansas City, Kansas; great-grandson Parker Thompson of Owasso; and great-granddaughter Stella Thompson of Owasso.

Vicki’s memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Helena on Friday, January 28, 2022, at 2 p.m. with a time of visitation with the family beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Arrangements are by Lanman Funeral Home Inc. of Helena. Online condolences may be made at www.lanmanmemorials.com.

Memorials may be given to Elm Flat Church (Missions) through the funeral home.

Woods County Fair Board members approved

By Marione Martin

The Woods County commissioners approved the results of the county Fair Board elections for 2022. Steve Sneary was the only candidate filing for District 1, and Dakota Province was the only candidate for District 2. Both were already on the board and will continue to serve.

Since no one filed for the District 3 position, Mike Perot was contacted and said he was willing to continue on the board. The commissioners appointed him

to the position.

Commissioners present for the meeting were Chairman Randy McMurphy and David Hamil. John Smiley was absent due to illness.

The transfer of appropriations from District 2 CBIR to the ETR fund in the amount of \$10,000 was approved. This is a payment on a state no-interest loan to District 2 for roadwork materials.

The commissioners approved the transfer of appropriations from Highway

District 1 and District 2 CBIR to Highway District 1 and District 2 personal services in the amount of \$14,886.59 each.

An error correction was approved regarding the court clerk monthly appropriation. The auditors recommended a new account be set up which the commissioners approved. They approved a transfer of funds into that account. However, the new account hasn’t been approved by the Woods County Excise Board so it cannot be used yet.

Several items from Woods County E911 were declared surplus. The items which will be junked are an HP computer, three Dell computers, one Poweredge computer and a voice logger.

The commissioners approved a resolution to surplus a 1998 Ford Cruiser for the Sheriff’s Department. The vehicle was transferred to the City of Alva, but they no longer need it so returned it to the county. The vehicle will be sold at auction.

A reimbursement to the county for November and December transportation claims was approved. County Clerk Shelley Reed realized the total listed on the agenda was off by \$100 so that was corrected with the total being \$470.08.

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

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THURSDAY: CHICKEN & NOODLES
FRIDAY: CATFISH
MONDAY: BEEF ENCHILADAS
TUESDAY: FRITO CHILI PIE
WEDNESDAY: ROAST w/POTATOES & CARROTS**

FRESH PRODUCE

**Braeburn or
Fuji Apples
99¢/lb**



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Wide Awake coffee creamer 32oz.....\$3.50
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Mrs. Fields ready to bake 16oz cookie.....\$2.79

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Food Club 24ct waffles or pancakes.....\$2.99
Crav'n Lasagna 80oz.....\$9.99
Crav'n 21oz skillet meals.....\$3.99
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Tendercrust wheat sandwich bread.....\$1.19
Folgers 24.2oz coffee.....\$8.99
Food Club 15oz spaghetti & meatballs.....79¢
Hostess single snacks.....\$1.25/ea
Food Club 18.3oz brownie mix.....99¢
Food Club 12oz honey mustard.....\$1.29
Chef Boy-ar-dee 15oz Ravioli.....\$1.25
Food Club 4pk fruit cups.....\$1.79

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**Family Pack
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\$1.29/lb**

**Center Cut Pork
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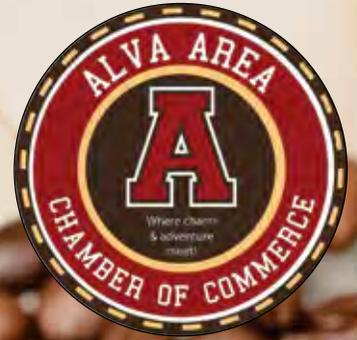
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Sat 8:00am-2:00pm
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580-327-3300

Burlington Branch
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm
PO Box 80, Burlington, OK
580-431-3300

Enid-Chisholm Branch
Lobby: M-F 8:30am-4:00pm
Drive-Thru: M-F 8:00am-5:00
Sat 8:00am-12 Noon
801 West Broadway, Enid, OK
580-234-4201

Bank of Freedom Branch
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm
1085 Main St, Freedom, OK
580-621-3276

First State Bank of Kiowa Branch
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546 Main, Kiowa, KS
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From Page 6 Burlington

Building Fund Encumbrance 5 for \$5,000 and Warrant 10 for \$554.26; Child Nutrition Encumbrance 16 for \$1,500 and warrants 76-91 for \$11,497.37.

The council also approved the December 2021 Activity report.

Principal Reports, Student Activities

Elementary Principal Pedersen reported that there were five new elementary students this semester, bringing the total student count for pre-K through sixth grade to 91 students.

An in-service was held for teachers on Jan. 4 on how to best utilize the new Promethean Boards that will be installed in their classrooms in the next few weeks.

The new student drop and pick up is

going well and parents have commented on how much it is appreciated. April 17-20 will be state testing for elementary students.

This month's emphasized character trait is self-control.

The last elementary and junior high games will be on Monday, Jan. 31, at home. Feb 4 is last game for high school basketball. Playoffs begin Feb. 10 for the Elks and Lady Elks.

The junior high and high school basketball teams both have upcoming tournaments at Medford and Pioneer-Pleasantville respectively.

Principal Spears reported the high school also added students, bringing the total count in 7th through 12th grade to

55 students.

The Christmas program held before break went well; thanks were expressed to Mr. O for all his hard work and for doing a great job with the program.

The book fair held before break also went well and the wish lists for all teachers were filled by donation.

During the recent in-service, teachers completed active shooter training.

The Quiz Bowl Team will compete in a meet on Jan. 29.

Professional development is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 21. It will be virtual with sessions focused on trauma, curriculum to close the learning gap, and testing strategies.

Biden administration officially withdraws vaccine rule

By Dee-Ann Durbin
AP Business Writer

The Biden administration has officially withdrawn a rule that would have required workers at big companies to get vaccinated or face regular COVID testing requirements.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration confirmed the withdrawal Tuesday. But the agency

said it still strongly encourages workers to get vaccinated.

In early November, OSHA announced a vaccine-or-test mandate for companies with at least 100 employees. The rule — which would have impacted more than 80 million U.S. workers — was originally set to go into effect on Jan. 4.

But numerous states and business groups challenged the rule in court. On Jan. 13, the Supreme Court halted the plan. In a 6-3 ruling, the court's conservative majority concluded that OSHA had overstepped its authority.

"OSHA has never before imposed such a mandate. Nor has Congress," the court's majority wrote. "Indeed, although Congress has enacted significant legislation addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, it has declined to enact any measure similar to what OSHA has promulgated here."

The justices left in place a vaccine mandate for health care providers who receive federal Medicare or Medicaid funding. That rule affects 10.4 million workers.

U.S. corporations have been split over whether to mandate employee

vaccinations. United Airlines began requiring vaccines in August; the company says 99% of its workers have been vaccinated or have requested medical or religious exemptions. Tyson Foods, which also announced a mandate in August, says 96% of its workers were vaccinated by a Nov. 1 deadline.

But other big businesses, including Starbucks and General Electric, scrapped previously announced vaccine mandates for their employees after the Supreme Court's ruling.

OSHA indicated that the rule could return in some form. While it is no longer an enforceable standard, it remains a proposed rule, OSHA said. For now, the agency said it will prioritize the health care mandate.

David Michaels, an epidemiologist and former OSHA administrator who now teaches at The George Washington University, said the agency could consider a new rule that would include other measures designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in workplaces, such as requiring face masks, distancing, and better ventilation systems.



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Warm Up This Winter With A Great Class At NWTC!

Classes listed are only those which begin after February 1. A complete list can be found on the NWTC Website at www.nwtech.edu.



Call 580.327.0344 to enroll. Classes below are held at the Alva Campus, 1801 Eleventh St., Alva unless specified.

COMPUTER/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Focus on Reading with Reading Plus (3rd grade & up!)	2/10-4/28	Th	4:00 - 5:30	\$80.00	\$80.00	No Fee
Social Media Basics <i>New!</i>	2/21-2/28 or 4/11-4/18	M	5:00 - 7:00	\$20.00	\$40.00	No Fee
LEADERSHIP/CUSTOMER SERVICE & EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Principles of Leadership (Call for a Group Rate)	2/3	Th	9:00 - 1:00	\$20.00	\$20.00	No Fee
Effective Communication (Call for a Group Rate)	2/10	Th	9:00 - 1:00	\$20.00	\$20.00	No Fee
Managing Conflict (Call for a Group Rate)	2/17	Th	9:00 - 12:00	\$20.00	\$20.00	No Fee
Diversity Training (Call for Group Rate)	2/24	Th	9:00 - 12:00	\$20.00	\$20.00	No Fee
The Simple Truths of Service (Customer Service Training)	2/2	W	12:00 - 1:00	\$15.00	\$15.00	No Fee
Business Start-Up Success 4-week Series (includes lunch each week) <i>New!</i>	2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22	Tu	11:30 - 1:00	\$49.00	\$98.00	\$40.00
SPECIAL SKILLS / INTEREST						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Cricut Workshops Package (Best Deal!) <i>New!</i>	2/7-4/18	M	6:00 - 7:00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$30.00
Cricut Valentine DIY: <i>New!</i>	2/7	M	6:00 - 8:00	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$15.00
Cricut Spring DIY: <i>New!</i>	3/7	M	6:00 - 8:00	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$15.00
Healthy Relationships	2/16	W	4:00 - 5:00	FREE	FREE	\$5.00
Refuse To Be A Victim - Force on Force Handgun Training for Civilians	2/19	Sat	9:00 - 5:00	120.00	120.00	No Fee
Houseplants & Succulents Basic Care <i>New!</i>	2/22	Tu	6:00 - 8:00			
HEALTH RELATED COURSES						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Certified Nurse Aide, Long-Term Care	2/7-3/1/2022	M W Th	8:00 - 4:00	500.00	1,000.00	125.00
Certified Medication Aide (CMA)	2/2, 2/3, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/2, 3/8	Varies	8:00 - 4:00	315.00	630.00	125.00
AHA HEARTSAVER COURSES						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
First Aid CPR AED	2/15	Tu	5:30 PM	40.00	40.00	20.00
WELLNESS & HEALTHY LIVING						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Macros 101 & Flexible Dieting	2/5	Sat	9:00 - 12:00	20.00	40.00	\$5.00
Childbirth Prep Class	2/26	Sat	1:00 - 5:00	40.00/couple	40.00/couple	No Fee
PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Refuse to Be a Victim-Force on Force Handgun Training for Civilians	2/19	Sat	9:00 - 5:00	120.00	120.00	No Fee
Mass Fatalities Planning & Response for Rural Communities	2/8	T	8:00 - 5:00	FREE	FREE	No Fee
NFPA 70E Arc Flash Certification	2/21 & 2/22	M & Tu	8:00 - 5:00 M 8:00 - 12:00 Tu	250.00	250.00	85.00
Respirator Safety	2/14	Varies	1:00 - 2:00	\$15/person Call for company rate	\$15/person Call for company rate	No Fee
Respiratory Fit Testing (Need Medical Opinion Prior to Fit Test)	2/14	Varies	2:00 - 4:00	\$15/person Call for company rate	\$15/person Call for company rate	No Fee
CLEET-Approved/Accredited Continuing Ed (Law Enforcement)						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Active Shooter & Hostage Based Training (2 hr. Mental Health)	2/28	Varies	8:30 - 5:00	FREE	FREE	No Fee
Law Enforcement Effective Report Writing-CLEET #20-1177	2/10	Th	9:00 - 1:00	FREE	FREE	No Fee
Taser End User	2/22	Th	8:30 - 5:00	Call to Inquire		
Practical Firearms with Force on Force Training-CLEET #21-2732	2/23 or 4/6	Varies	9:00 - 5:00	FREE	FREE	No Fee
Force-on-Force; Responding to Active Threats	2/7, 3/28 or 5/23	M	8:30 - 5:00	FREE	FREE	No Fee
ETC SAFELAND USA SAFETY AWARENESS- CLASS IS ONE DAY SESSION ONLY						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
ETC Safeland USA	2/9	W	7:30 - 5:00	\$75/person \$300/company (up to 15 students based upon availability)	\$75/person \$300/company (up to 15 students based upon availability)	\$10.00 Card
ENTREPRENEURSHIP/SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Business Start-Up Success 4-week Series (includes lunch each week) <i>New!</i>	2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22	Tu	11:30 - 1pm	\$49.00	\$98.00	40.00
CHEROKEE COMMUNITY CLASSES						
	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
AHA First Aid CPR & AED	2/15	Tu	6:00 PM	\$40.00	\$40.00	20.00

Warm Up This Winter With A Great Class At NWTC!



Classes listed are only those which begin in February unless specified. A complete list can be found on the NWTC Website at www.nwtech.edu.

Call 580.227.3708 to enroll. Classes are held at the Fairview Campus, 801 Vo-Tech Dr., Fairview unless specified.

COMPUTER/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Computer Flex	2/3 - 2/24	Th	6:00 - 9:00	30.00	60.00	No Fee
Building a Website	2/3 - 3/10	Th	6:00 - 9:00	45.00	90.00	Book Cost
COMPUTER LABS	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Game Programming	2/1 - 4/26	Tu	6:00 - 9:00	90.00	180.00	Book Cost
LEADERSHIP - "Creating A Culture of Unity"	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Supervision - Thinking Styles and Motivation	2/10	Th	9:00 - 11:30	49.00	49.00	No Fee
Communication - Giving Essential Feedback & Managing Crucial Conversations	2/24	Th	9:00 - 11:30	49.00	49.00	No Fee
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY MEAT PROCESSING	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Meat Processing Virtual Training	https://nwtech.edu.edu/classes/short-term-classes/meat-processing/					
Hand-On-Meat Processing COMING SOON!	Class to start February 2022. Call to enroll					
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SKILLS	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
The Effective Administrative Assistant	2/10 - 2/24	Th	9:00 - 11:00	15.00	30.00	No Fee
The Effective Administrative Assistant	2/10 - 2/24	Th	6:00 - 8:00	15.00	30.00	No Fee
LEADERSHIP/CUSTOMER SERVICE / EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Drafting Your Own Will	2/26	Sat	8:00 - 12:00	50.00	50.00	No Fee
Trusting Trusts For Your Estate Plan	2/26	Sat	12:30 - 3:30	50.00	50.00	No Fee
Forming an LLC	2/26	Sat	4:00 - 7:00	50.00	50.00	No Fee
Business Start-Up Success 4-week Series (includes lunch each week) <i>New!</i>	2/3 - 2/24	Th	11:30 - 1:00	49.00	98.00	\$40.00
SPECIAL SKILLS / INTEREST	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Advanced Welding <small>skip 3/14</small>	2/15 - 4/28	Tu & Th	6:00 - 9:00	200.00	400.00	100.00
HEALTH RELATED COURSES	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Certified Nurse Aide, Long Term Care	2/22 - 3/11	M - Th	8:00 - 4:30	500.00	975.00	125.00
WELLNESS & HEALTHY LIVING	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Learn to Enjoy Eating Healthy Foods <small>No class on 3/14</small>	2/21 - 4/4	M	6:00 - 8:00	30.00	60.00	No Fees
VEHICLE SAFETY COURSES	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
AAA Driver Improvement Program	1/31 & 2/1	M & Tu	4:30 - 7:30	20.00	40.00	6.00
CLEET - Approved/Accredited Law Enforcement, Fairview Campus	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Traffic Stops; Simulator Based Shooting Decisions (2 hr. Mental Health)	2/10 or 5/26	Th	8:30-5:00	FREE	FREE	\$20.00
CLEET- Reserve Academy 2022 (Enroll by 12/13/21)	2/1-6/16	Tu, Th, Sat.	6:00-10:00	Call to Inquire		
ENTREPRENEURSHIP/SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	DATES	DAYS	TIMES	ID Tuition	OD Tuition	FEES
Business Start-Up Success 4-week Series (includes lunch each week) <i>New!</i>	2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24	Th	11:30 - 1pm	\$49.00	98.00	40.00
Ringwood/Meno Community Classes						
Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED	By Arrangement			40.00	40.00	20.00
1-on-1 Business Coaching & Assistance <i>New!</i>	By Arrangement			FREE	Varies	No Fee
AAA - Driver Improvement	By Arrangement					
Canton Community Classes						
Beginning Watercolor	2/3 - 2/24	Th	6:00 - 8:30	15.00	30.00	No fee
1-on-1 Business Coaching & Assistance <i>New!</i>	By Arrangement			FREE	Varies	No Fee
AAA - Driver Improvement	By Arrangement			20.00	40.00	6.00

Sen. Pederson files bill to improve ag tax exemption renewal process

OKLAHOMA CITY – Sen. Roland Pederson has filed legislation aimed at cutting through red tape for farmers and ranchers renewing their agricultural sales tax exemption. Pederson, R-Burlington, said Senate Bill 1655 would simplify the renewal process for those who have already met the initial requirements to qualify for the exemption.

“This was one of the issues we looked at in an interim study held here at the Capitol last fall. Once you’ve

been approved for this agricultural sales tax exemption, you have to renew your card every three years,” said Pederson, who serves as vice chair of the Senate Agriculture and Wildlife Committee. “I heard from farmers and ranchers across Oklahoma who’ve had problems renewing their exemption even though they have previously been approved for it. This will streamline the process for those individuals.”

Currently, every three years an

agricultural producer must go through the same application process as those applying for the very first time. SB 1655 would require the Oklahoma Tax Commission to provide a form which producers would simply sign and check a box attesting that they are continuing agricultural production activities in order to receive their permit renewal.

SB 1655 can be considered after the Legislature convenes the 2022 session on Feb. 7.

COVID-19 booster drive is faltering in the US

By Mae Anderson

NEWYORK (AP)—The COVID-19 booster drive in the U.S. is losing steam, worrying health experts who have pleaded with Americans to get an extra shot to shore up their protection against the highly contagious omicron variant.

Just 40% of fully vaccinated Americans have received a booster dose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the average number of booster shots dispensed per day in the U.S. has plummeted from a peak of 1 million in early December to about 490,000 as of last week.

Also, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that Americans are more likely to see the initial vaccinations — rather than a booster — as essential.

“It’s clear that the booster effort is falling short,” said Jason Schwartz, a vaccine policy expert at Yale University.

Overall, the U.S. vaccination campaign has been sluggish. More than 13 months after it began, just 63% of Americans, or 210 million people, are fully vaccinated with the initial rounds of shots. Mandates that could raise those numbers have been hobbled by legal challenges.

Vaccination numbers are stagnant in states such as Wyoming, Idaho, Mississippi and Alabama, which have been hovering below 50%.

In Wyoming, 44% are fully vaccinated, up just slightly from 41% in September. To boost numbers, the state has been running TV ads with health care workers giving grim accounts of

unvaccinated people struggling with COVID-19.

“Certainly we would like to see higher rates. But it would be wrong for anyone to think that the rates we have are due to lack of effort,” Wyoming Health Department spokeswoman Kim Deti said Tuesday.

At the other end of the spectrum, Vermont is a national leader in the percentage of people who have been fully vaccinated and received a booster shot. About 60% of the population over 18 has gotten a booster. But it’s not enough, said Vermont Health Commissioner Mark Levine.

“I’d love to see that percentage much closer to 90%,” Levine said.

The U.S. and many other nations have been urging adults to get boosters because the vaccine’s protection can wane. Also, research has shown that while the vaccines have proved less effective against omicron, boosters can rev up the body’s defenses against the threat.

As for why an estimated 86 million Americans who have been fully vaccinated and are eligible for a booster have not yet gotten one, Schwartz said public confusion is one important reason.

“I think the evidence is now overwhelming that the booster is not simply an optional supplement, but it is a foundational part of protection,” he said. “But clearly that message has been lost.”

The need for all Americans to

See Booster Page 24

Employment Opportunity

Alfalfa County Sheriff’s Department is accepting applications for 1 part time jailer position. Hours and days vary. Pay is \$12.50/hr. Individuals must pass pre-employment background and drug screen. Duties include but not limited to:

- Supervision of inmates
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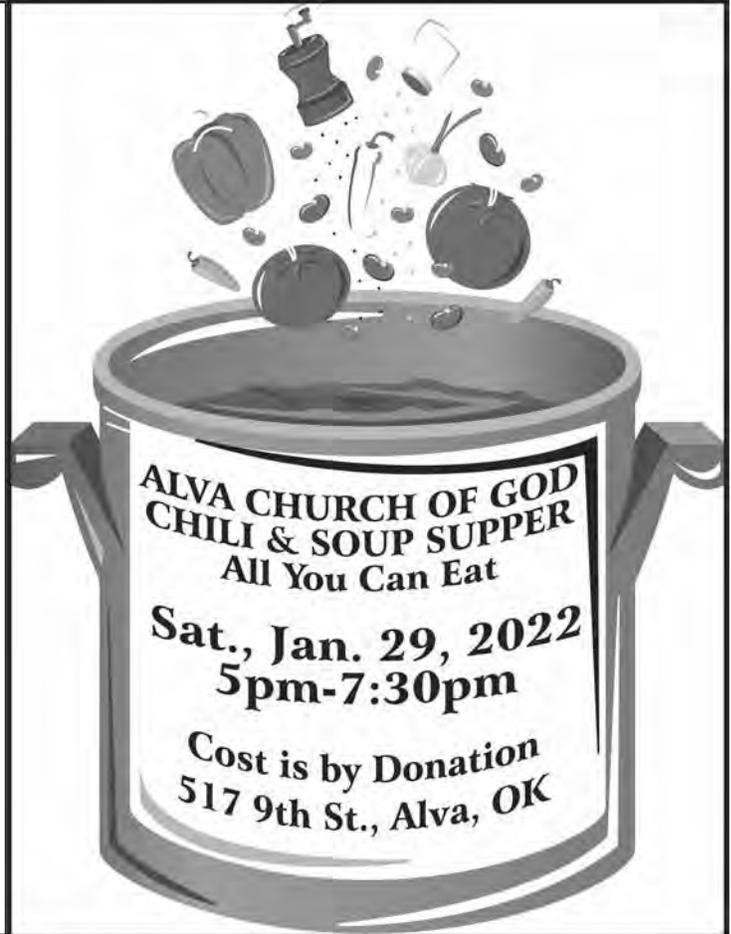
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NEW - SOLD - 320 Acres - W $\frac{1}{2}$ - 11-25-14, Woods Co., Okla. - This tract has been sprigged to Ozarka Bermuda grass and has new fences. **PRICE: \$640,000.00**

NEW - UNDER CONTRACT - 80 Acres Cropland - S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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. E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ & S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 corals, 312 ft. cement bunk line, 2 Ritchie Waterers, Rural water available. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -10-25-14 **PRICE: \$375,000.00**

NEW - SOLD - 240 Acres - All grassland, new 5-wire fences, 2 Ritchie Waterers. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ & the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & 90 Acres in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 22-28-13, W.I.M. Woods County, OK. **PRICE: \$450,000.00**

NEW-SOLD - 160 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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 Eufala. Hunting property, 205 Acres, 1-mile lake frontage, pool, shop, 2,440 sq. ft. home, completely remodeled. 410399 E. 1227 Rd., Eufala, OK. **PRICE: \$1,250,000.00**

NEW - SOLD - 160 Acres - All cropland (Pond Creek Silt Loam Soils) SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -11-35S-12W, Barber County, Kansas **PRICE: \$450,000.00**

NEW - SOLD - 320 Ac - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 4-25-12 Alfalfa Co., OK **PRICE: \$800,000.00**

SOLD - 160 Ac. - S $\frac{1}{2}$ -30-28-12 Alfalfa Co., OK **PRICE: \$780,000.00**

SOLD - 320 Ac. - N $\frac{1}{2}$ -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 - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -33-27-13 Woods Co., OK **PRICE: \$500,000.00**

SOLD - 320 Ac - E $\frac{1}{2}$ -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 - 3.15 Acres. **PRICE: \$300,000.00**

5.33 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**

Three Lots - Waynoka, OK - Nickerson-Olmstead Block 4 - Lot 9

SOLD - Block 4 - Lots 12 & 13 less 36' **PRICE: \$30,000.00**

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

ALVA RESIDENTIAL



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**



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 (879 sq ft basement). 1 car detached garage, currently a nice workshop. Covered patio and fenced backyard. 807 Locust, Alva. **PRICE: \$99,000**



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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NEW - 315 Acres of which 208 Acres is excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek Silt Loam, Dale Silt Loam, and Reinach Very Fine Sandy Loam Soils), and the balance being 107 Acres of excellent grassland.

This grassland has excellent hunting potential as Mule Creek runs through the grass area on the property. Improvements include a 1,200 sq. ft. home, 50'x100' shed - like new, 32' x 60' shop w/ 16" lean-to, steel corrals, cements bunks with loafing shed, three overhead bins, grain bin and hopper bin. Also has a 3-Acre pond with small cabin. Don't miss this property. Located four miles from Kiowa, KS, or northwest of Burlington, OK. N $\frac{1}{2}$ - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$1,050,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - All cropland, located SW of Alva, OKLA. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 21-26-14, W.I.M., Woods County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$320,000.00**

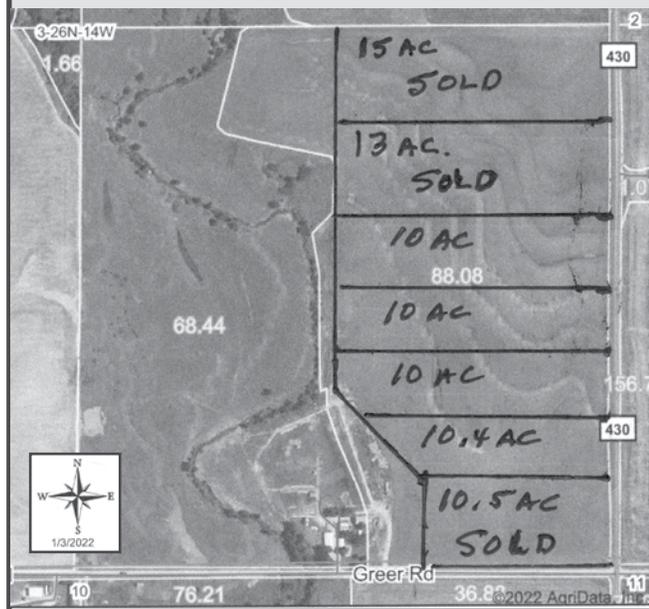
NEW - 40 Acres - Excellent cropland, Dale Silt Loam & Grant Silt Loam Soils. Located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Aline, OK. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 1-23-12. **PRICE: \$75,000.00**

NEW - 222 Acres - 206 Acres of good cropland (Meno Loamy Fine Sand and Nobscot sand soils), the balance being 16 Acres of tree groves in three locations. Has excellent hunting potential. Located 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles north and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ west of Ringwood, OK. W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ less 18 Acre tract in 29-23-10, W.I.M., Major County, Okla. **PRICE: \$440,000.00**

NEW - 560 Acres - 7 Acre Blue Water pond, new steel corrals, new 5-wire fences, native pasture, rural water and corrals, 4 other ponds. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 13-25-15, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW, N/2 SW - 24-25-15, Woods County, Okla **PRICE: \$675,000.00**

NEW - 80 Acres - Excellent deer hunting, trees, and canyons - Boone and Crocket bucks. Lies $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Salt Fork River. If you want to kill a big buck on a small acreage, you just found it. N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 28-29-15 **NEW PRICE: \$128,000.00**

NEW - 10 Acre tracts for sale. Excellent building sites, just 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of Alva on County Road 430. Tracts located in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 3-26-14. **PRICE: \$55,000.00 to \$57,500.00 per tract**



NEW - 169 Acres - 123 Acres cropland, 46 Acres prairie grassland. Pond Creek silt loam and Quinlan Wooded Hills Soils. Located on the OK-KS stateline, Hardtner, KS. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 16-35S-12 South of the 6th PM. Barber County, KS. **PRICE: \$375,000.00**

UNDER CONTRACT

160 Acres - Freedom, Oklahoma - Excellent deer hunting - 42 Acres cropland, excellent grass, lots of timber. Located on the OK-KS stateline, 40 miles northwest of Freedom, OK. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 32-28-18 W.I.M. **PRICE: \$245,000.00**

UNDER CONTRACT

915 Acres - A sportsman's dream
Big Bucks - Turkey - Ducks
Borders Cimarron River in Freedom, Okla. Native pasture, rough woods, deep canyons, 5 ponds, Woods County, Okla.
Legal: E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Lot 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ & NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 28-27-18, NW NW, W/2 SW & SW NW - 27-27-18, Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$1,100,000.00**

SOLD

160 Acres - excellent grassland, 11 wire fences, solar pump and tank, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 8-25-15
PRICE: \$228,000.00

SOLD

154.3 Acres - excellent grassland, 11 wire fences, crossfenced, solar pump and tank.
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 36-26-16 **PRICE: \$220,000.00**

SOLD

"A sportsman and cattleman's dream"

Abundant wildlife: Deer, turkey, and quail. Excellent grassland and live water. Tract 1 - 281 Acres Nature and Beauty at its finest.
Legal: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & the E $\frac{1}{2}$ & the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 30-27-8, W.I.M., Grant County, Okla.
PRICE: \$700,000.00

SOLD

320 Acres - Excellent grassland
It has excellent sandhill grass, 50 wire fences, and is watered by a windmill. There is also excellent hunting on the property.
Legal: S $\frac{1}{2}$ - 14-27-9, Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$560,000.00**

SOLD

80 Acres w/ improvements
This tract consists of 80 Acres of good grass, a nice home, a starter yard, multiple outbuildings, and much more. W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 3-26-14, Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$250,000.00**

UNDER CONTRACT

68.4 Acres (M or L) excellent cropland SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 3-26-14, Woods County, Okla. Lying just southwest of Alva, Okla. This would make an excellent building site or development property. Will divide to suit buyer. Will sell in parcels of 10 Acres or more. **PRICE: \$5,500/Ac**

SOLD

160 Acres cropland
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 10-27-15 Woods County, Okla.
This tract consists of 154 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Bethany Silty Clay Loam, Grant Silt Loam, Tillman Silty Clay Loam, and Vernon - Knoco Complex Soils). A windmill waters it. **PRICE: \$340,000.00**

SOLD

114 Acres grassland
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 1-25-16, Woods County, OK, less the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and a 6-Acre tract in the NE corner. This tract consists of 114 Acres of excellent grassland. It has excellent hunting potential for Deer, turkey, and quail. It is watered by a waterwell. **PRICE: \$170,000.00**

SOLD

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Lending a hand

By Makinze Smith

Breya Beck and Hunter Durkee volunteered their time as youth ambassadors at the Youth Lead Expo held in Woodward a couple weekends ago. Breya helped in the show ring while Hunter sorted pigs and ran the gates.

All the help during the show was handled by youth volunteers including some current 4-H members as well as a past FFA and 4-H members too. We were so glad to see all the kids that helped make this event a success.

Breya Beck, Waynoka FFA, helps in the show ring during the Youth Lead Expo.

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Waynoka FFA's Hunter Durkee volunteered to work the gates during the Youth Lead Expo.

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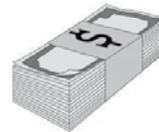
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GO SOUTH BARBER!



The South Barber Chieftain Head Coach is Danny McCartney with no assistant. They have a 2-9 record so far this season. Team members are: Leo Turner, Brent Duncan, Bryson Rathgeber, Lukas Dunham, Bryce Duvall, Gatlin Jewell, Caden Rathgeber, Tony Vasquez, Ruston Erikson, Briggs Jewell, Xander Myers, Oakley Duvall, Kyle Dotts. Photo courtesy of Cathy Colburn Photography



The South Barber Lady Chieftains are led by Head Coach Danny McCartney and assistant Nicole Perez. Their record so far this season is 2-5. Team members are: Lynzee Wilbur, Jaden Allen, Arrington Allen, Breckynn Behee, Grace Cantrell, Bianca Binning, Jessica Jahay, Autumn Drake, Jazzmin Binning. Photo courtesy of Cathy Colburn Photography

Free Admission to Basketball Homecoming Friday, February 4

By Yvonne Miller

Thanks to Kansas SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone), everyone has FREE ADMISSION to South Barber's Homecoming Basketball game. It's Friday, February 4. South Barber hosts Stafford. Watch for Homecoming details in the Newsgram next week.

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We Now Have Broasted Chicken At Our Hot Deli!



Congratulations to South Barber USD 255 Seniors Gatlin Jewell and Ruston Erikson for being selected to play in the Kansas Eight-Man Football Association Allstar Football Game this summer in Beloit, KS

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Congratulations to South Barber USD 255 Senior Avery Grieve who tied for 3rd place High Individual Scorer at the League Scholars Bowl Meet at Pretty Prairie. Her total was 190 points!



South Barber Boys Junior High Tornadoes' head coach is Matt Cantrell with no assistants. Their record is 2-8 so far this season. Team members are: Back: Carthrae Courson, Bradyen Duvall, Tyler Archuleta, Urijay Cruz, Isaac Angle, Chance Howland, Keagan McMurray, Joshua MacKinney. Front: Aiden Courson, Devon Olson, Gare Cantrell, Austin Swonger, Steele Smith, Ethan Mader, Vance Stewart. Photo courtesy of Cathy Colburn Photography



The South Barber Girls Junior High Tornadoes are 7-4 on the season so far. Their head coach is Savannah Coggins assisted by Jessica Swonger. Team members are: Back: Candice MacKinney, Fiona Walz, Miley Turner, Lily Schurter, Tanith Erikson, Trilbey Dorsey, Lily Dunham. Front: Kenslea Schupbach, Aneesa Courson, Lauryn Vasquez, Lyndsay Vasquez, Reignie Coggins, Delaney Allen. Photo courtesy of Cathy Colburn Photography



Congratulations to the SBHS Scholars Bowl team who placed 3rd in their own Invitational Tournament yesterday. Pictured l-r: Reagan Grieve, Avery Grieve, Lynzee Wilbur, Clare Pollock, Tyten Courson. Many thanks to the staff, students, and community members who worked at the tournament! Way to go South Barber!

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From Page 16 **Booster**

get boosters initially was debated by scientists, and at first the government recommended only that certain groups of people, such as senior citizens, get additional doses. The arrival of omicron, and additional evidence about falling immunity, showed more clearly a widespread need for boosters.

But the message “has been lost in the sea of changing recommendations and guidance,” Schwartz said.

The AP-NORC Center poll found that 59% of Americans think it is essential that receive a vaccine to fully participate in public life without feeling at risk of COVID-19 infection. Only 47% say the

same about a booster shot.

Keller Anne Ruble, 32, of Denver, received her two doses of the Moderna vaccine but hasn’t gotten her booster. She said she had a bad reaction to the second dose and was in bed for four days with a fever and flu-like symptoms.

“I believe in the power of vaccines, and I know that’s going to protect me,” said Ruble, the owner of a greeting card sending service. But the vaccine “just knocked me out completely and freaked me out about getting the booster.”

She said she does plan to get the booster in the next few weeks and in the

meantime wears an N95 mask and tries to stay home.

“I just don’t want to get COVID in general,” she said. “It does scare me.”

Blake Hassler, 26, of Nashville, Tennessee, said he doesn’t plan to get the booster. He received Pfizer’s two doses last year after having a mild case of COVID-19 in 2020. He said he considers himself to be in a low-risk category.

“At this point, we need to focus on prevention of serious illness at the onset of symptoms rather than creating a new shot every six weeks and more divisive mandates,” he said.

Appeals court paves the way for 2 more Oklahoma executions

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A federal appeals court rejected a request from two Oklahoma death row inmates to temporarily halt their upcoming lethal injections.

A three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver denied the inmates’ motion in a ruling on Monday. The decision paves the way for the state to carry out the executions of Donald Grant, 46, on Thursday and Gilbert Postelle, 35, on Feb. 17.

The two have argued that the state’s

current three-drug lethal injection protocol that uses midazolam as the first drug will expose them to a constitutionally unacceptable risk of severe pain. But after a daylong hearing on that issue earlier this month, a federal judge in Oklahoma City determined the inmates were unlikely to succeed on the merits of their case and denied their request for a temporary stay of execution.

The judge also determined that Grant and Postelle selected an alternative

method of execution, firing squad, too late to be included in a separate lawsuit challenging Oklahoma’s lethal injection protocol as unconstitutional.

Attorneys for the two inmates filed an appeal Tuesday with the U.S. Supreme Court, urging the high court to grant them a temporary stay of execution.

“The public will be ill-served if applicants are executed before a full opportunity to test the protocol’s legality,” attorneys wrote in the application for a stay.

Grant was convicted and sentenced to die for killing two Del City hotel workers during a 2001 robbery. Postelle received the death penalty for his role in the Memorial Day 2005 shooting deaths of four people at a home in southeast Oklahoma City.

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Town Visit Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 22nd
Aline 8:00 – 12:00

Wednesday, Feb. 23rd
Burlington 7:00 – 12:00

Thursday, Feb. 24th
Goltry 9:00 – 12:00
Helena 12:30 – 3:30

Alfalfa County Assessor's Office

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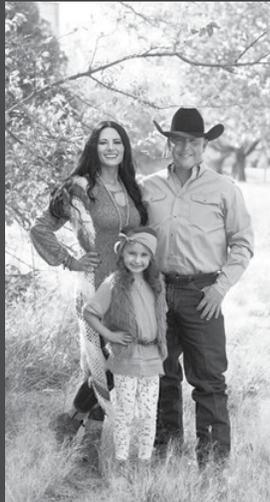




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160 ACRES - Attica, Kansas, Harper County, trees, native grass, 80 ACRES tillable crop ground. Great hunting! Live creek.. **\$208,000** **SOLD**

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** **UNDER CONTRACT**

NEW - 80 ACRES, LAMONT OK, currently planted in milo, excellent deer hunting, with blinds, feeders, and food plots in place! We have current inventory pictures of mature big bucks! **\$220,000**

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

745 ACRES- Woods County, live creek, ponds, food Plots! **\$1,115,000** **UNDER CONTRACT**

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

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

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** **SOLD**

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** **SOLD**

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 Turnkey 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**

NEW- 1,446 Acres, Anthony KS, UNIT 15, known for its trophy deer! 575 acres of grass and cover, 871 acres in tillable farm ground. 2 houses, 6 water wells, Excellent duck hunting! **\$3,615,000.00**

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BUSINESS PROFILE



GREAT PLAINS

LAND Co



Tyson Barnes of Great Plains Land Co

This week, successful businessman and local rancher Tyson Barnes sat down with Stacy Sanborn of the Newsgram to formally introduce himself and his business to the community.

Stacy: Tyson, tell us a little about yourself.

Tyson: I was raised in south Florida around ranching and agriculture but moved to Alva in 2011 and made it my home. In 2012 I married local girl Emily Erikson, and we have a 7-year daughter named Stella. My father-in-law (Leon Erikson) and I raised Angus cattle, and together we operate on about 4,800 acres.

Stacy: So what are some of your hobbies and interests?

Tyson: I enjoy spending quality time with my wife and daughter. I really enjoy the outdoors a lot, whether I'm chasing a giant whitetail buck, duck hunting, camping, or just being out horseback working cattle. I just love the land and all its resources.

Stacy: Why did you get into the real estate business?

Tyson: I got into the real estate business a few years ago. I saw a need for a different kind of real estate agent to serve my fellow ranchers and farmers. I wanted to provide a service that is *TAILOR MADE* to their situation, and meets their wants and needs. I think the farmers and ranchers are getting tired of the *SMOKE & MIRRORS TACTICS, EMPTY PROMISES,* and franchise fees that turn into *HIGH* commission rates.

I want a returning customer for years to come; I'm NOT out to gouge them one time and then not be able to look them in the eye! I see these farmers and ranchers every day, whether it's at the feed store or the coffee shop, so you can bet my handshake and word mean something!

The real estate industry has lost its integrity. I want to be an *ASSET* to this community and to the farmers and ranchers looking for someone to help facilitate the selling of their most valuable asset- *THEIR LAND!*

“

There are two types of people in this world; you're either an ASSET or a LIABILITY!

”

Stacy: Now that's a statement that rings true! Thanks for stopping by, Tyson. We enjoyed the visit, and congratulations on growing a successful business! We are glad to have you here supporting the community.

Tyson: Thanks for having me!

Pfizer begins testing omicron-matched COVID shots in adults

By Lauran Neergaard
AP Medical Writer

Pfizer is enrolling healthy adults to test a reformulated COVID-19 vaccine that matches the hugely contagious omicron variant, to see how it compares with the original shots.

Pfizer and its partner BioNTech announced the study on Tuesday.

COVID-19 vaccine-makers have been updating their shots to better match omicron in case global health authorities decide the change is needed.

Omicron is more likely than previous variants to cause infection even in people who've been vaccinated, but it's not yet clear that a change to the vaccine recipe will be ordered. Among the issues regulators are weighing: Some of the first places to face an omicron surge already are seeing the mutant wane — and there's no way to know if the next variant that arises will resemble omicron or be totally different.

The original vaccines still offer good protection against severe illness and death. Studies in the U.S. and elsewhere have made clear that adding a booster dose strengthens that protection and improves the chances of avoiding even a milder infection.

Another wrinkle in deciding

whether vaccines need an update: A new U.S. report Tuesday echoes data from Britain and South Africa that omicron infections cause less severe illness — at least in part because so many people have some protection from vaccination or prior infection. During the omicron surge, 13% of hospitalized COVID-19 patients ended up in intensive care, compared with about 18% during two earlier waves, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Still, “we recognize the need to be prepared in the event this protection wanes over time and to potentially help address omicron and new variants in the future,” Kathrin Jansen, Pfizer's vaccine research chief, said in a statement.

The new U.S. study will include up to 1,420 volunteers ages 18 to 55 to test the updated omicron-based shots for use as a booster or for primary vaccinations. Researchers will examine the tweaked vaccine's safety and how it revs up the immune system in comparison to the original shots.

Full study results will take many months as volunteers receive multiple vaccine doses — and as researchers measure how long virus-fighting antibodies remain at high levels after an

omicron-adapted dose versus the regular booster.

Pfizer's CEO told CNBC earlier this month that the company could have some omicron-matched doses ready as early as March. But doing what the company calls “at-risk” manufacturing doesn't mean those doses will be rolled out to the public. Pfizer and other vaccine makers also have brewed and tested experimental doses to match previous variants, changes that ultimately weren't needed but offered valuable practice at tweaking the recipe.

For the new study, one group of about 600 volunteers who received two doses of the current Pfizer vaccine three to six months ago will receive either one or two omicron-based shots as boosters. Another 600 who have already gotten three regular doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be given a fourth dose of either the regular vaccine or the omicron-matched version.

The study also will enroll some unvaccinated volunteers who will receive three doses of the omicron-based vaccine.

Pfizer plans to produce 4 billion vaccine doses in 2022, and said Tuesday the amount isn't expected to change if an omicron-adapted version is needed.

Man accused of stabbing K-9 arrested after dad's body found

By Juan A. Lozano

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man accused of stabbing a police dog and wanted for questioning in the death of his father, whose body was found hidden in his home's garage, was arrested Tuesday after evading capture for several hours, according to authorities.

Police say Ryan Mitchell Smith, 26, is considered a person of interest in his father's death and had warned he should be considered a public threat given his recent actions over the past few days, including charges related to trying to steal a car and attacking the police dog.

“Given his previous charge and what

we're looking at now, I think it goes without saying he has a tendency for violence,” Houston police Commander Kevin Deese said. “I would say he's considered to be dangerous, certainly.”

After disappearing in a wooded area in Houston following a police chase early Tuesday, authorities said Smith was located around 2 p.m. about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Houston, walking along a highway in Waller County. Police said a tip led authorities to Smith's location. He is facing a charge of evading arrest.

It is the second such charge Smith is facing since police allege he attempted

a carjacking Saturday morning. After fleeing the scene of the carjacking and allegedly stealing merchandise from a store, Smith went to a nearby apartment parking garage, according to police.

At the garage, a Houston police dog named Nate caught up with Smith, who is accused of stabbing the animal. Smith was arrested on charges of robbery, interference with a police service animal and evading arrest.

Police said Nate underwent surgery and was recovering at home.

Smith was released Sunday from the

See K-9 Page 30

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Dee Wiebener, Owner

SAT going digital in shifting college admissions landscape

By Carolyn Thompson
Associated Press

The SAT exam will move from paper and pencil to a digital format, administrators announced Tuesday, saying the shift will boost its relevancy as more colleges make standardized tests optional for admission.

Test-takers will be allowed to use their own laptops or tablets but they'll still have to sit for the test at a monitored testing site or in school, not at home.

The format change is scheduled to roll out internationally next year and in the U.S. in 2024. It will also shave an hour from the current version, bringing the reading, writing and math assessment from three hours to about two.

"The digital SAT will be easier to take, easier to give, and more relevant," said Priscilla Rodriguez, vice president of College Readiness Assessments at the New York City-based College Board, which administers the SAT and related PSAT. "We're not simply putting the current SAT on a digital platform. We're taking full advantage of what delivering an assessment digitally makes possible."

Once essential for college applications, scores from admission tests like the SAT and rival ACT carry less weight today as colleges and universities pay more attention to the sum of student achievements and activities throughout high school.

Amid criticism that the exams favor wealthy, white applicants and disadvantage minority and low-income students, an increasing number of schools have in recent years adopted test-optional policies, which let students

decide whether to include scores with their applications.

The pandemic accelerated the trend as testing sessions were canceled or inaccessible.

Nearly 80% of bachelor's degree-granting institutions are not requiring test scores from students applying for fall 2022, according to a December tally by the National Center for Fair & Open Testing, a watchdog group that opposes standardized testing. The group, known as FairTest, said at least 1,400 of them have extended the policy through at least the fall 2023 admissions cycle.

About 1.5 million members of the class of 2021 took the SAT at least once, down from 2.2 million in the previous year. A College Board survey found many students want to take the SAT to preserve the option of submitting the scores and qualifying for certain scholarships.

Rodriguez said the digital version will be delivered in a format more familiar to students who regularly learn and test online at school.

Also, student score reports will not only focus on connecting students with four-year colleges and scholarships, but also provide information about two-year

college and workforce training options. That reflects an increase in the number of students who are given the exam during a designated SAT day at school, with some districts requiring students take it. About 60% of students who take the SAT do so at school, Rodriguez said.

"We want to present students with a wider range of information and resources about their post-secondary options," she said.

Scores will be available in days, rather than weeks, she said. There have been cases through the years of sets of paper exams getting lost in the mail.

"The digital version, I thought, was a lot less stressful than the paper and pencil version. It felt a lot more familiar," said Natalia Cossio, 16, of Fairfax County, Virginia, who took part in a November pilot after first taking the PSAT on paper.

She said the digital format would solve some logistical issues she's seen, like students bringing mechanical pencils instead of the required No. 2 variety, or advanced calculators that are not allowed. The digital version includes a basic calculator for the math section.

The College Board said students without a personal or school-issued device will be provided one for test day.

From Page 28 **K-9**

Harris County Jail after family members posted his bonds, according to Deese.

Family members of Smith's father became concerned Monday when they had not heard from him. Both Smith and his father were staying at the same west Houston home, Deese said.

After only finding the father's cellphone in the home, family members called police, who searched the house but found nothing.

As officers continued searching the home Monday evening, they noticed the father's truck parked nearby, Deese said. Officers approached the truck and saw Smith behind the wheel.

Smith fled the scene and led officers on a chase that ended early Tuesday after

he crashed the truck near a park, Deese said. Officers lost track of Smith after he ran into a wooded area. A weapon was found in the truck, he said.

Homicide detectives continued searching the home and found the father's body in the garage.

"He was hidden in a location that made it very difficult for anybody to find him," Deese said.

An autopsy is pending to determine a cause of death, but Deese said it appears the father did not die of natural causes.

Ralph Manginello, Smith's attorney, declined to comment to The Associated Press on Tuesday, citing the ongoing investigation.



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Sean Payton resigns as coach of New Orleans Saints

By Brett Martel

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton, whose 15-year tenure with the club included its only Super Bowl championship and also a one-season suspension stemming from the NFL's bounty investigation, is leaving coaching.

Payton informed the team on Tuesday that he is leaving his first and only NFL head coaching job with a 152-89 regular-season record — and nine playoff appearances — in 15 seasons. The Saints won the NFL title in 2009.

"I don't like the word retirement," he said. "I still have a vision for doing things in football. And I'll be honest with you, that might be coaching again at some point. I don't think it's this year, I think maybe in the future. That's not where my heart is right now."

The Saints made Payton a first-time head coach in 2006, when he oversaw a stunning turnaround in the franchise's first season back in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. The club had been displaced from the city during the entire 2005 season, going 3-13.

The Saints went 10-6 and advanced to the NFC championship game in Payton's first season. He has coached the Saints to the postseason eight other times in his 15 seasons since.

New Orleans narrowly missed the playoffs this season, going 9-8 in its first campaign since the retirement of Drew Brees. Payton had lured the quarterback to New Orleans as a free agent in 2006 and Brees went on to set every significant franchise passing record.

Under Payton, the Saints became a perennial contender, and they beat Peyton Manning and Indianapolis 31-17 to win their lone Super Bowl. They also lost the 2018 conference title game to the Rams after a blown officiating call that led to a temporary NFL rules change.

Payton was a member of the league's powerful competition committee from 2017 until leaving that position last November.

"I don't know what's next," he said. "Look, I read the reports and I understand. I've not spoken to anyone from a media outlet relative to doing television, or radio. Maybe that opportunity arises. But every time I read something that says he's in line for this job, I'll call my agent Don (Yee) and I'll say 'Don did you hear something because I've not heard anything?' That's OK. I think I'd like to do that. I think I'd be pretty good at it."

A valued offensive assistant for the Eagles, Giants and Cowboys before landing the head coaching job in New

Orleans, Payton actually played in the NFL — as a replacement player for the Bears during the 1987 strike.

He missed the 2012 season when the NFL suspended Payton, assistant coach Joe Vitt, general manager Mickey Loomis and four players after an investigation found the Saints had a performance pool offering cash rewards for key plays, including big hits. The player suspensions eventually were overturned by former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, and Payton was reinstated early in 2013.

Including playoffs, Payton has a 161-97 record, by far the most victories of any Saints coach. Jim Mora, who coached New Orleans from 1986 to 1996, is second with 93.

Payton's 152 regular-season victories rank 21st in NFL history. Payton has presided over seven NFC South titles.

Payton made his mark as an innovative designer of offenses and play caller, coinciding with Brees' extraordinary production. The Saints never led the NFL in offense before Payton arrived but finished first in that department six times since: in 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2014 and 2016.

The Saints ranked first in scoring in 2008 and 2009. They ranked in the top 10 offensively for 14 consecutive seasons from 2006-2019. Although Payton wasn't coaching in 2012, his offensive coordinator, Pete Carmichael Jr., was calling plays based on the principles of the offense designed.

In 2020, Brees' final season, the Saints, went with more of a ball-control attack featuring running back Alvin Kamara and ranked 12th offensively. This season, however, New Orleans dropped to 28th in offense.

Payton also had to miss a game in 2021 after contracting COVID-19 for the second time since the spring of 2020.

Defensive coordinator Dennis Allen stepped in as acting head coach for that game, which the Saints won 9-0 at Tampa Bay. Allen, a former head coach with the Oakland Raiders, has made no secret of his desire to be in charge again.

Now there's an opening on the very team that employs him.

2 injured in explosion and fire at an Oklahoma tank battery

OKARCHE, Okla. (AP) — Two workers were injured Monday in an explosion and fire at a central Oklahoma oil tank battery, officials said.

The incident happened shortly before 2 p.m. at a Devon Energy oil well pad in Okarche, Oklahoma, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) northwest of Oklahoma City, according to a spokeswoman for Oklahoma City-based Devon.

The two injured workers were

employed by a contractor and were cleaning equipment not in use for production at the site when the fire started, Devon spokeswoman Lisa Adams said.

The two were taken to local hospitals, but Adams did not have their conditions. Crews quickly extinguished the fire and had the site secure within 90 minutes, she said.

The cause of the fire was under investigation, she said.

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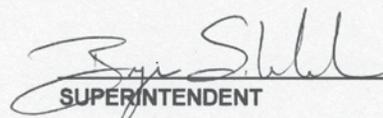
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Sealed bids for the purchase of the property will be received until **3:00 p.m., February 25th, 2022** at the office of the Superintendent located at **412 E 5th, Cherokee, OK 73728**. Bids must be made utilizing the Contract for Sale of Real Estate which is available at the Office of the Superintendent. Bids not received by the date and time specified above will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked **“Bid-Surplus Real Estate.”** Each bid must contain a statement of the Bidder's intended use of the property. Each sealed bid shall be accompanied by a cashier's check in the amount of **\$10,000.00** as earnest money.

The bids will be opened at **12:00 p.m. on March 3rd, 2022** in the **Cherokee High School Library**. The results will be referred to the Board Of Education of **Cherokee Public Schools** for acceptance or rejection. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any and all bids or to accept any particular bid.

CHEROKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS


SUPERINTENDENT

Barber County court filings

Civil Filings

Carol Martin vs. American Family Insurance Company: automobile tort.

Limited Filings

Country Place LLC vs. Shelley Bennett: landlord/tenant-unlawful detainer.

Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital and Physicians Clinic vs. Mark J. Ashabranner: debt collection.

Domestic Filings

James Baxter vs. Hazel R. Baxter: marriage dissolution/divorce.

Traffic Citations

Christopher Eugene Byrd has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$171)

Charles Eugene Greenwood Jr. has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$285)

Patricia L. Gross has been cited for

maximum speed limits. (\$231)

Jodi Gayle Odell has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$177)

Adam G. Peterson has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$195)

Ya Jim Ruan has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$183)

Jesse Len Wade has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$153)

Patrick Christopher Cunningham has been cited for over weight limits on wheels and axles. (\$153)

Alejandro Escarcega Garcia has been cited for operating a motor vehicle without valid drivers license. (\$208)

Edward J. Graf has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$177)

Marshall Alexander Pettigrew has been cited for gross weight limits for vehicle. (\$528)

Luis R. Resending has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$195)

Jordan Quade Bennett has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$183)

Patrick David Ducey has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$213)

Jeffery Earl Fields has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$171)

Agatha Norene Hudgins has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$207)

Zane Chance Lyons has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$201)

Carlos Salvador Obregon has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$183)

Joseph R. Urban has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$177)

Koby Allen West has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$213)

Phillip Adam Wohlford has been cited for maximum speed limits. (\$189)

Barber County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 147 page 14: Marilyn R. Traffas unto Traffas Family Farm LLC. The southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 13, and the southwest quarter and the west half of the east half, and the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 14, all in township 33 south, range 10 west of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Warranty deed.

Book 147 page 15: Samuel W. Pangburn unto Sunflower Associates LLC. Lots 10 and 11 in block 49 in the City of Kiowa, Barber County, Kansas. Quit claim deed.

Book 147 page 16: Virgil D. Brewer and Patricia M. Brewer unto Ann L. Alexandria. The north 80 feet of lot 10, 11 and 12 in block 160 in the Town Company's Addition to the City of Kiowa, Barber County, Kansas. Warranty deed.

Book 147 page 18: Celia Faye Conaway Living Trust unto Bryan Investments LLC. Kiowa Original City, block 18, lots 10 and 11, east half lot 9, west 15 lot 12. Quit claim deed.

Book 147 page 20: April A. Stewart and Clint Stewart unto Geneane M. Winchell. The south 75 feet of lots 7 and 8 in block 152 in the Town Company's Addition to the City of Kiowa. Quit claim deed.

Book 147 page 21: Justin A. Rug and Doolittle D. Rug unto Brian Farney

and Jennifer Farney. Lots 13 through 18, block 69, City of Hazelton, Barber County, Kansas. Warranty deed.

Book 147 page 22: Chad Kroc and Tammy Kroc unto Jeremy Mosley and Kathryn A. Mosley. A tract of land in the northwest quarter of section 5, township 30 south, range 11 west of 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Book 147 page 23: Ronnie Walker unto Michael Anthony SanSoucie Jr. Lot 9 in block 57 in the City of Hardtner. Quit claim deed.

Book 147 page 24: Clifford Lynn Kimball unto Noble Ronald Kimball and Melody Kimball. Lot 3, Central Avenue West, Stolp's Addition to the City of Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas. Warranty deed.

Book 147 page 25: Clifford Lynn Kimball, unto Cierra Rickard, Autumn Rickard and Brayden Rickard. The west half of the northwest quarter of section 21, township 31, range 13, Barber County, Kansas. Warranty deed.

Book 147 page 28: Kavin E. Palmer, unto Willard Gordon and Elizabeth Humphrey. Lots 10, 11 and 12 in block 21 in the City of Kiowa, Barber County, Kansas. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Book 147 page 32: Kenneth J. Ricke and Stacy L. Arnold unto Logan C. Kiser. Beginning at a point 279 feet and 5 inches north of the southwest corner

of the northwest quarter of southeast quarter of section 1, township 32 south, range 12 West of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas.

Mortgages

Book 245 page 1: Meagan M. Etheridge and Jacob A. Etheridge to The People's Bank. Beginning at the southeast corner of section 19, township 32 south range 10 West of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$190,400.00.

Book 245 page 14: Christopher Fischer and Brianna D. Fischer to The People's Bank. Lots 1 through 12 in block 11, in the City of Sharon, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$40,000.00.

Book 245 page 28: Donna K. Krug, and Rodney Don Krug, to American AgCredit. The northwest quarter of section 14, township 30 south, range 11 West of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$220,000.00.

Book 245 page 42: Parker M. Patterson, to Meritrust Federal Credit Union. Lot 10 and the west 30 feet of lot 11, block 137, in the Town Company's Addition to the City of Kiowa, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$47,200.00.

Book 245 page 56: Todd A. Jones, to Flagstar Bank. Lot 25 and 27 on Washington Avenue East in the Original Townsite of the City of Medicine Lodge.

See Real Estate Page 38

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office logs

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

During this day there were three traffic stops.
3:59 a.m. – Report of an abandoned vehicle on OK-8 and Aline Blacktop.
3:13 p.m. – Medic needed for a male having a seizure in the locker room at the school. Medic took him to the Kiowa Hospital.
6:05 p.m. – Medic needed for a male having trouble breathing in the 300 block of Colorado.
7:40 p.m. – Report of fire on Garvin Road and OK-8.

Thursday, January 20, 2022

During this day there were two reports of cattle out.
1:34 p.m. – Report of a medical alarm going off in the 200 block of 2nd Street. Report of a possible over dose of medications.
9:36 p.m. – Report of three people that came into her yard and house in the 100 block of Grand. Advised her son asked them several times to leave. They hit him and broke his glasses and they were looking for her nephew, who had left the house. The three people left headed east on OK-8 in a maroon Chevy van. Caller advised she wanted to press charges. Deputy stopped the van on OK-45 and County Road 560 and advised everything was okay. Deputy spoke with the reporting party and the RP advised they didn't want to press charges but would like trespassing charges.

11:59 p.m. – Welfare check needed in the 900 block of Locust.

Friday, January 21, 2022

During this day there were four traffic stops.
12:37 p.m. – Welfare check needed on East Street. Deputy advised male was fine and will call his daughter.
12:55 p.m. – Report of a smoke alarm going off but caller doesn't see any smoke. Everything was okay.
4:10 p.m. – Medic needed for a male possibly having a stroke. Medic took patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.
4:27 p.m. – Medic needed for an elderly woman who fell in the 200 block of Main in Goltry. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.
5:19 p.m. – Report of loose dogs out at 5th Street and Maple.
10:06 p.m. – Medic needed for a male with heart pain and an irregular EKG. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

Saturday, January 22, 2022

During this day there was one traffic stop.
4:49 a.m. – Medic needed for a male with abdominal pain and throwing up in the 300 block of 3rd Street.
5:27 a.m. – Report of a person who looked like they were

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From Page 36 Sheriff

breaking into a building in the 100 block of Grand. Advised they were in a orange hoodie and black paints. Officer advised they were no brake-in damage. Officer found the suspicious individual at Grand and 11th Street.

10:19 a.m. – Medic needed for a male stepped on by a bull. No transport needed.

12:29 p.m. – Report of aggressive dogs loose in the 400 block of 5th Street.

Sunday, January 23, 2022

During this day there were two reports of cattle out.

12:56 a.m. – Medic needed for an unresponsive male.

8:31 a.m. – Medic needed for male with low oxygen levels. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

12:01 p.m. – Report of loose pit bull at the co-op.

1:36 p.m. – Woods County advised of male that had been stabbed and was somewhere east of Alva, off of US-64. Woods County then advised the male was at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

10:10 p.m. – Medic needed for a female who fell and hurt her face and was bleeding. AirEvac was needed and took the patient.

Monday, January 24, 2022

7:31 a.m. – Medic needed for a female. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

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.

Divorce Filings

Sarah Elaine Langone, Cherokee, vs. Vincent Michael Langone, Dacoma: divorce. (\$262.14)

Traffic Citations

Markeith Tavvi Smith, Muskogee, has been cited for failure to stop at a stop sign. (\$249)

Mark Anthony Zamora, North Richland Hills, Texas, has been cited for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license. (\$249)

See Court Page 38

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Community Calendar

Wednesday

9 a.m. The Woods County Senior Citizens Center, 625 Barnes, Alva, is doing in person dining and delivery for homebound seniors. Please call 327-1822 until noon the day before to order. In person meals are at noon.

Noon Alva Kiwanis Club will meet at Cancun Mexican Grill.

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

7 p.m. Alva Moose Lodge men's meeting is held every Wednesday.

Thursday

9 a.m. The Woods County Senior Citizens Center, 625 Barnes, Alva, is doing in person dining and delivery for homebound seniors. Please call 327-1822 until noon the day before to order. In person meals are at noon.

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

3-6 p.m. Food distribution every Thursday, Alva Wesleyan Food Bank, 818 Lane St.

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

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

Friday

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

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From Page 37 Court

Amory Deon Thomas, Nescatunga, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Janelle I. Waugh, Cherokee, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Alfalfa County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 877 page 945: Harvey Yoder, as trustee of the Max Yoder Family Revocable Trust, unto Eddie Miller and Deana Miller. East half of lot 11 and all of lots 12 through 14, block 38, Town of Jet. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Book 877 page 958: Jeff Cahoj and Mika Cahoj unto Jeffrey C. Carol, Trustee of the Jeffrey C. Cahoj Living Trust. A tract of land in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter section 3, township 26 north, range 9, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 877 page 978: Lael Cronin unto David Shepard and Linda Shepard. Lots 10 through 18, in block 8, High School

Addition, Helena, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 877 page 979: Brandon D. Severin unto Chancey Leigh Nunnally. All of lots 22 and 23 in block 21 in the Town of Goltry, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 877 page 992: Juan Jose Montalvo unto Rocky Lane Schanbacher and Michele Schanbacher. The northwest quarter of section 30, township 25 north, range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Mortgages

Book 877 page 980: Chancey Leigh Nunnally to ACB Bank. All of lots 22 and 23 in block 21 in the Town of Goltry, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: \$12,000.00.

From Page 34 Real Estate

Note: \$80,000.00.

Book 245 page 71: Isabella Rea Lira and Isaac Lira, to The People's Bank. Lots 1 through 4, in block 7 in Cook, Standiford and Company's Revised Addition to the City of Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$58,500.00.

Book 245 page 98: Rufus Murray and

Tammy J. Murray, to Community Bank. Lots 8 and 9 in block 67 in the City of Hardtner, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$87,000.00.

Book 245 page 116: Garret O'Neil, to Rocket Mortgage. Lot 22 in block B in Forsyth Addition to the City of Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$175,750.00.

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Judge leaves New York indoor mask mandate in place, for now

By Carolyn Thompson
Associated Press

A New York appeals judge left the state's indoor mask mandate in place Tuesday while Gov. Kathy Hochul's administration appeals a lower court's decision to overturn it.

Judge Robert Miller granted the state's request for a stay of a Long Island judge's ruling Monday that the governor and health officials lacked authority to require masks.

Arguing before Miller Tuesday, Judith Vale, an attorney for the state, said judge Thomas Rademaker's ruling would "radically disrupt the status quo" and endanger the health of students and staff at schools.

"The order, if not stayed will allow individuals to refuse to wear face coverings in indoor public settings where the risk of COVID-19 spread is high, including in schools where many children remain unvaccinated against COVID-19," the state's court filing said.

The plaintiffs' attorney, Chad Laveglia, vowed to take the challenge "as far as it needs to go."

"The judge got it wrong entirely. It's so blatantly unconstitutional to grant a stay whatsoever," he said.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

New York state education officials told school administrators to continue enforcing the state's mask mandate for students and teachers Tuesday despite a judge's ruling overturning it, causing confusion as some districts rushed to make masks optional.

The Education Department said the state had filed notice that it would appeal Monday's ruling by a judge on Long Island, a step that could keep the rule in place at least until its planned expiration Feb. 1.

"While these legal steps occur, it is NYSED's position that schools should continue to follow the mask rule," said department spokesperson Emily DeSantis.

But in some districts, administrators immediately made

masking optional for students and staff.

"While it is certain this decision will face legal challenges, until otherwise litigated, mask wearing will be optional for students and staff in the Massapequa Schools beginning Tuesday," the Massapequa School District, in the New York City suburbs of Long Island, said on its website.

Ruling in a case brought by a group of parents, judge Thomas Rademaker said the governor and state health commissioner didn't have authority to issue a mask mandate without legislative approval.

The mandate "is a law that was promulgated and enacted unlawfully by an executive branch state agency, and therefore void and unenforceable," the judge said.

Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul said she disagreed with the ruling, and Attorney General Letitia James tweeted Tuesday that her office would challenge it.

"We're appealing last night's decision that struck down the mask mandate in New York. We will continue to do everything in our power to protect New Yorkers from #COVID19," James, a Democrat, tweeted.

Judith Vale, an attorney for the state, asked a judge Tuesday in a higher court to block the ruling pending appeal, arguing it would "radically disrupt the status quo" and endanger the health of students and staff at schools.

Judge Robert Miller did not immediately rule on the request.

The plaintiffs' attorney, Chad Laveglia, argued against a stay, calling the mask mandate unconstitutional.

"The commissioner of health is an administrative officer who is promulgating laws on all New Yorkers," he said.

The state had initially instituted a mandate in April 2020 that required people to wear masks in most indoor settings outside their home. That rule ended in June

2021 for vaccinated people. Hochul announced in mid-December, as COVID-19 infections surged in the state, that it would go back into effect for at least a month. Earlier this month, the state health department said the mandate would be in place until Feb 1.

As school districts waited for the legal questions to play out, parents received mixed instructions, depending on where they live.

Syracuse City Schools were among those following the Education Department's guidance. "That means that anyone entering any of our schools must continue to wear a mask," a notice on the district's website said.

In Westchester County, Mamaroneck Superintendent Robert Shaps made mask-wearing optional.

Republican U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik criticized Hochul for "ignoring" the ruling and causing unnecessary confusion. She told parents in her northern New York congressional district to call her office if their children were not allowed in school without a mask.

"Masks are not mandatory for students, period. Yet Kathy Hochul is still trying to force young children to wear a mask in school, shamefully disregarding the rule of law," Stefanik said in a news release.

In a statement, Hochul said, "My responsibility as Governor is to protect New Yorkers throughout this public health crisis, and these measures help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. We strongly disagree with this ruling, and we are pursuing every option to reverse this immediately."

The ruling comes as the omicron wave that gripped New York state appears to be easing. The state averaged around 23,400 new cases of the virus per day in the seven-day period that ended Sunday, down from 74,600 per day during the wave's peak in early January. Hospitalizations are dropping, too, declining 17% statewide in the past seven days.

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