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(T56072)

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SALE PRICE $22,475
(T55112)

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(U641)

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(T5674)

2018 CHEVY MALIBU
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(U652B)

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FWD, SLE, Cloth, HS, Sunroof
SALE PRICE $17,475
(U664A)

2021 GMC YUKON XL
4WD, Denali, Leather, H&C Seats, Sunroof, Bucket Seats, 6.2L 8cyl
SALE PRICE $69,995
(T56431)

DON’T FORGET THE CHOCOLATE FANTASY ON NOV. 9TH!

Burlington BOE approves Spears as assistant superintendent

The Newsgram is delivered to Alva, Capron, Hardtner, Kiowa, Hazelton, Medicine Lodge, Burlington, Byron, Amorita, Cherokee, Helena, Goltry, Carmen, Aline, Dacoma, Hopetone, Waynoka, Freedom, Jet, Nash, Cleo Springs & Manchester
Alfalfa County commissioners quickly handle short agenda

By Stacy Sanborn

The Alfalfa County commissioners had a short agenda this week. Nate Ross, Mike Roach and Garret Johnson signed the usual documents - previous meeting minutes, payroll, maintenance and operation warrants for payment, and blanket purchase orders, with the latter from Districts 1 and 2, the sheriff, and the assessor. They resigned the financial statement for FY 22-23 because the auditor changed forms and then declared a surplus on a 2023 Kenworth oil truck out of District 1 (Inv. no. D1 432-100, Serial no. 2NKHMM 7X0PM 238903). With that came the approval of a payoff to District 1 for that truck, a resolution for its disposal, and a transfer. The commissioners signed the contract for District 1’s alcohol and drug testing with Enterol Services and, finally, approved the request to change Brian Schwerdtfeger as first deputy for District 3.

Wallace named Aline-Cleo October Student of the Month

Elijah Wallace, seventh grader, was selected as the October Student of the Month at Aline-Cleo High School.

His school philosophy is, “Be a good student, make good grades, and don’t get into trouble.” The uniqueness of his school is, “We are a really strong and small school.”

His favorite activities include, basketball, track and TSA. His favorite quote is, “Actions speak louder than words,” by Mark Twain.

Elijah’s inspiration comes from his dad. He is the son of Tim Wallace of Cleo Springs.

Sheriff’s office to get new fingerprinting system

By Marione Martin

The Woods County Board of Commissioners had a short agenda for Monday’s regular meeting. One action was to approve the transfer of funds from the Sheriff’s Service Fee fund to the Sheriff’s Grant fund to pay for a new fingerprinting system. A transfer was also approved to move $4,686.78 from the Sheriff’s Grant fund to the Sheriff’s Service Fee fund. County Clerk Shelley Reed said that was a bit of accounting housekeeping that should have been done at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The commissioners approved the date for the annual county safety meeting. It will be held at the courthouse on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 11:30 a.m. The courthouse will be closed at that time.

Randy McMurphy made a motion to approve the Pioneer Internet contract, seconded by David Hamil, and approved unanimously. Reed said the internet cost will go down almost $300 per month while the speed will be doubled.

The commissioners looked over a plat map of the Sand Ratz addition bordering the Little Sahara State Park in Commissioner John Smiley’s district. No action was scheduled.

The commissioners voted to retain Gable Gotwals, attorneys, for assistance on an insurance issue.

No action was taken on a couple of road crossing permits because payment had not arrived.

The commissioners approve payroll, warrants, claims and blanket purchase orders.

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Some ideas for making your future years better

By Marione Martin

I was sad to learn that Mike Wagar died last week. My husband Lynn and I came to know the Wagars through photography. Lynn was hired to photograph the members of the Nash Christian Church. He offered an extra of photographing the families in or around their homes. It was 1975 and I was pregnant. Lynn convinced me to travel with him to Nash on several Sunday afternoons for the photos.

We enjoyed getting to know the families while setting up the poses. Lynn and Mike bonded over a common interest in photography. The Wagars invited us to a meal, and we continued to meet occasionally until the distance and our responsibilities became too much. But we occasionally ran into each other and held fond memories of the time we spent together.

The Wagars were some of the first people to visit after our daughter was born. As an experienced mother, Carol could offer me some much-needed advice in coping with a newborn. Now on my monthly visits to Graceful Arts Gallery during the First Friday Art Walk, I stop to admire some of Mike's wood creations on display there. That's an advantage of knowing an artist. They live on in the work they created.

This week, a couple of Alva ladies celebrated their 95th birthdays. Happy birthday to Lois Johnson and Darlene Holtzclaw!

How Long Do You Want to Live?

Had he not been felled by cancer, my husband was fully prepared to live into his 90s, and he intended to keep working as long as possible. He was convinced that working in one form or another was one of the keys to a happy old age.

However, many people say they don’t want to live to an old age because they don’t want to be a burden on their kids. They’re envisioning all the health problems that seem to develop as we age.

Recently I read a book currently on the non-fiction bestsellers list: "Outlive" by Peter Attia, M.D. He discusses his own experiences, reviews medical studies and offers some suggestions for making it into old age in good shape. As an athlete, he puts exercise at the top of the list. He also talks about diet but doesn’t espouse any particular one, although he says getting enough protein is essential. He includes a section on mental health as well. It’s an interesting read and an honest one. There’s no single approach that guarantees good health, but prevention is much better than treating problems after the fact.

If you’re like me, you probably already know what you should do to improve your health. Actually doing it is another thing! It’s like my brother Gene. Once when he came to visit, he had lost a noticeable amount of weight. He explained that his doctor told him he needed to lose 25 pounds but said he didn’t think Gene could do it. Gene decided to prove him wrong and lost more than 25 pounds.

What works for me is periodically reading a refresher like the article I saw in the December 2023 Prevention magazine.

Aging Healthier

Title “How to Age Healthier,” the article reminds us about things that are bad for us and tips for feeling young longer. Here are some highlights:

• Address Your Stress. The low-grade inflammation that damages cells is fueled by stress. Suggestions to combat stress include taking breaks in nature, taking breaks in the outdoors periodically. Try to mentally time-travel by thinking about your biggest worries; how much will they matter in a week, a month, a year from now? Schedule some “inner me” time for meditating, journaling or going for a run. Designate a phone-free zone where you’re not checking your phone every few minutes.

• Be Blood Sugar Aware. Consistently high levels of glucose in your body can damage cells, setting the stage for diabetes and heart disease. Eating Mediterranean style is considered one of the healthiest of diets, full of vegetables, fruit, healthy fats like olive oil and proteins (lots of fish). Japanese researchers found drinking green tea lowers glucose levels in people without diabetes. And it’s important to have your glucose levels checked. At my annual checkups, my levels have been slightly rising, enough that my doctor suggested I cut back on carbs a little and drop a few pounds. I’m working on that.

• Move That Body. The minimum recommended amount of cardio exercise is 150 minutes a week. That’s walking, playing pickle ball, or doing active housework. It’s also important to work in some resistance training, using resistance bands or doing body weight exercises. And to improve your muscles further, get enough protein. A 150 pound woman needs at least 102 grams of protein a day, says the article.

• Stay Heart Smart. Cooking at home more often instead of grabbing takeout helps you control portions and use healthier ingredients. Fermented foods like miso, natto and kefir aren’t common in American households but a Japanese study found the risk of developing high blood pressure dropped 28 percent in people who regularly consumed fermented soy products like miso and natto. Another study shows heart benefits for those who regularly drank the milk product kefir. Keeping up social connections is also good for your heart. A good sleep to the list. Most people require seven to eight hours of sleep a night, something emphasized in the book “Outlive” referred to earlier.

Maybe these tips will give you a nudge toward better health so you can enjoy living longer.
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SALE PRICE $52,475

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SALE PRICE $26,995

2013 CHEVY 3500
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SALE PRICE $33,575

2011 CHEVY 3500
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SALE PRICE $32,475

2017 CHEVY 2500
LTZ, 4WD, Diesel, Leather, H&C Seats, Z71 Package, (T56381)
SALE PRICE $47,475

2017 CHEVY 3500
LT, Gx, SRW, Butler Spike Bed, PW&PD, FR, (T55721)
SALE PRICE $34,475

2020 CHEVY 3500
Reg. Cab, 4WD, WT, PW&PD, Spike Bed, SRW, 6.6L 8cyl, (T55631)
SALE PRICE $44,995
Principal Spears approved as assistant superintendent by Burlington School Board

By Yvonne Miller

In the absence of Burlington School Board President Robert Hill, Vice-President TJ Rockenbach called the Oct. 23 meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., with all other board members present: Lindsey Callison, Terry Graham and April Kisling. With a two-hour executive session in the middle of the meeting, the meeting lasted just over four hours, adjourning at 11:17 p.m.

Also attending were: Superintendent Brent Rousey, JH/HS Principal Gerrett Spears, Elementary Principal Stan Pedersen and Minutes Clerk Brook Keast. Guests were: Teresa Sims, Rylee Sims and Garrett Sims.

Rousey updated the board on the finances for the capital building project. He said the general contractor and architect have each been paid 51 percent of their projected project total. The school is drawing interest on the other 49 percent of the funds. In cost-cutting efforts early to the original plan, Rousey said they temporarily scraped the entryway plan into the new gym.

Principal Spears approved as assistant superintendent by Burlington School Board

At this meeting, the board accepted the quote from Rieger Welding to do the entryway to the new gym for $74,000. Rieger’s price is about $17,000 less and is the same design as the original plan.

At 7:56 p.m. the board convened in executive session to discuss the ongoing evaluation of the performance of the superintendent (personal qualities), and discuss school safety, job descriptions and the assistant superintendent role. The board returned to open session at 10:10 p.m.

The board approved Gerrett Spears as the assistant superintendent for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year on the same contractual terms previously approved.

Discussion and a vote to approve/not approve the following job descriptions with or without changes was on the agenda. Those job descriptions are for: 1) bus driver, 2) custodian, 3) library media specialist, 4) paraprofessional, 5) principal, 6) special education director, 7) superintendent. The board tabled this item.

The Burlington Superintendant News

Burlington School Board Action

Daycare Director Gerrett Spears gave an update on the financial state of the daycare. “The daycare is in good standing financially. We are sitting better than last year at this time due to grants obtained.”

Enrollment at the daycare is 35 kids and there’s a waiting list, Spears said. Hannah Arnold received board approval as a daycare teacher for the 2023-24 school year. Arnold is from Alva and is a new employee at Burlington.

Anne Graham currently teaches first grade at Burlington. The board approved paying for her continuing education to go get her Title 1 Reading specialist degree.

The board accepted the resignation of Amber Kottman as paraprofessional and thanked her for her service.

New kitchen items were purchased for $26,000. That included a new convection oven, tables, sinks and range.

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- 1972 Volkswagon Bug
- 2014 Peterbuilt Semi with hay trailer attachment
- 2009 Freightliner M2
- 2001 Freightliner Coronado
- 1990 AM General 5 ton 6x6 Brush Rig Fire Truck
- 2001 Ford F-550 Brush Rig Fire Truck
- 14' Dual Axle Enclosed Trailer
Vehicles
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Bid will extend if active bids are being placed.

HARPER COUNTY LAND AUCTION
MANCHESTER - STATE LINE AREA
149± PRODUCTIVE CROP LAND
with Simulcast Bidding Available (signal permitting)
LEGAL (SURFACE ONLY): W/2 of the SW/4 of Section 16, Township 35 S, Range 6 W1/2, Harper County, KS
FSA INFORMATION: Farm Service Agency shows a total Farmland of 148.2 acres, with a Wheat Base of 137.40 acres, with a PLC Yield of 41 Bu.
SOIL INFORMATION: Per soil mapping data, the tract consists primarily of Class 1 Pond Creek Silt Loam and Class 2 Nashville Silt Loam, balance being in Dale Silt Loams Class 1, and Grant Silt Loam Class 2, Nashville Silt Loam Class 4, and Woodward-Port Complex Class 6.
MINERALS: 1/2 of the Mineral Rights associated with the tract will be conveyed to the Buyer at the time of Closing.
Friday, November 10 • 1pm
Off-site auction at Manchester (OK) Fire Department

GRANT COUNTY LAND AUCTION
RENFROW AREA
155± PRODUCTIVE CROP LAND
with Simulcast Bidding Available (signal permitting)
LEGAL (SURFACE ONLY): NW/4 of Section 6, Township 28 North, Range 3 West, Grant County, OK. Surface Rights Only.
FSA INFORMATION: Farm Service Agency shows a total Farmland of 151.40 acres, with a Wheat Base of 150.36 acres, and a PLC Yield of 39 Bu.
SOIL INFORMATION: Per soil mapping data, the tract consists primarily of Class 2 Kirkland Silt Loam and Class 2 Tabler Silt Loam, balance being in Kirkland Silt Loam Class 3.
MINERALS: No minerals will be conveyed at closing.
Thursday, November 16 • 10am
Medford (OK) Civic Center

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Waynoka FFA Oct. chapter meeting involves pumpkin carving, bonfire, s’mores

By Alivia Seaman, Waynoka FFA Reporter

On Thursday, Oct. 26, Waynoka FFA members enjoyed an October chapter meeting. During their time together members had a pumpkin carving contest, set around a bonfire, and cooked s’mores while listening to music and having a great time.

During the pumpkin carving contest, members were split into teams to work together to carve pumpkins in a relay. The team that won consisted of Marlie Pitts, Brac Long, Brylee Beck and Wyatt Milledge.

The night was filled with fun, laughter and lots of memories. Members are thankful to the Cimarron River Stampede Rodeo Committee for allowing them to have their event at the rodeo grounds and to Ronnie Pitts for keeping an eye on the bonfire and judging the pumpkin carving contest.

Woods County Coalition offers Near Science Training

The Woods County Coalition (WCC) is sponsoring a free training open to all community members on, “NEAR Science-Beyond ACES: Building Self-Healing Communities,” Nov. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Northwest Technology Center in Alva. Refreshments and a light meal will be provided. Please join us for an enlightening evening of learning and discussion on this important topic. Everyone is welcome to attend.

NEAR Science provides an understanding of how trauma, including adverse childhood experiences (ACES), and resilience impacts health outcomes. NEAR Science would be beneficial for parents, educators or any individual or professional who works with youth, but also would be applicable to adult populations as well.

Participants will leave the training with the tools and information to help them understand frustrating behaviors to interact more effectively with youth and adults. The event will begin with a viewing of the film, “Resilience, the Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope,” followed by discussion of the film and NEAR Science, including strategies to help those who have experienced childhood trauma increase their capabilities, attachment and belonging, and fostering growth.

The mission of the Woods County Coalition is to promote safe and healthy lifestyles for youth and families in Woods County. For more information about this event, please contact Theresa Sharp, WCC Co-Chair, at theresa.a.sharp@outlook.com or Susan Holliday, WCC Co-Chair, at susan.holliday@okstate.edu.
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MILES: 43,437
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Aline couple charged with child abuse

By Marione Martin

A couple from Aline has been charged with child abuse for allegedly allowing and facilitating juveniles to smoke marijuana.

Levi Lee Welch, 37, and Jennifer Lynn Welch, 40, have each been charged with child abuse (marijuana) in Alfalfa County. This felony is punishable by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections not exceeding life or by a fine of $500 to $5,000 or both such fine and imprisonment.

According to court affidavits, the investigation began Oct. 10 when Alfalfa County Sheriff Rick Wallace received a phone call from a DHS supervisor advising him of a secondary referral. A 12-year-old boy told his mother about abuse allegations on Aug. 31, and the mother called Enid Police.

The referral to Alfalfa County came about because the boy’s father and stepmother live in Aline, which is in Alfalfa County. The boy told his mother that since he was 7 or 8 years old, his father had been supplying him with marijuana. The mother said Levi Welch had his medical marijuana card. The boy said his stepmother Jennifer had been at home when he used the marijuana.

Sheriff Wallace met with Jennifer Welch on Oct. 16. The Welches live on property owned by a woman who lives there with her two grandchildren, ages 13 and 15. The grandchildren are friends with the Welches. Jennifer said she and Levi had lived in Enid, Longdale and Canton as well as Aline.

Levi’s 12-year-old son stays with them two weeks of each month according to their visitation schedule. During the initial interview, Jennifer denied that Levi smoked marijuana with his son. She said the boy stole her marijuana gummies sometimes, supplied to her by Levi. She said she also smelled marijuana sometimes.

In a second interview, Jennifer admitted she was there when Levi smoked marijuana. She also knew the two grandchildren of the property owner smoked with Levi and his son, according to the affidavit.

On Oct. 16 Sheriff Wallace conducted a post-Miranda interview with Levi Welch. At first he denied smoking marijuana with his son, but later admitted he did. He said the last time was around the first of August. He said Jennifer was present when they smoked marijuana. He also said the other two juveniles were there, and that they had stolen marijuana from their grandmother.

In a second interview, Levi was asked if he thought it was wrong to let the juveniles smoke marijuana, and he replied, “I do now.” He stated, “I should never have let them do it or shared the pipe with them.”

Barber County municipal and school elections Nov. 7

Names of candidates on ballot, according to Barber County Clerk

HARDTNER
3 City Council
John N. Adams
Chuck Black
Leona A. Gosvener

HAZELTON
Mayor
Tom Traylor
2 City Council
Todd Catlin
Gary Johnson

ISABEL
3 City Council
Steve Cummins
Jeremy Osley
Kyle W. Lynch - write-in

KIOWA CITY
3 City Council
B.J. Duvall
Brian Hill
Randy Robbins

MEDICINE LODGE
Mayor
Thomas G. Lee
2 City Council
Garret T. McLemore
John C. Hagood - write-in

SHARON
4 City Council
Bonnie Belle
Jim Fischer
Rodney Fischer
Jordan Ricke

SUN CITY
Mayor
Brendon V. Woods
5 City Council
Chance Z. Collins
Beth Davis
Teena Thurber
Ethan Woods

Garrett Woods
USD 254 (North Barber)
Position 1
Eric H. Barnes
Position 2
Jamie Phipps
Willie Tanner
Position 3
Andrea Farrar
Position 7
Mark Suchy
USD 255 (South Barber)
Positions 1 and 2, District 2 - inside
Tamara (Turner) Bogatay
Deborah A. Helfrich
Jarrod Inman
Bret Mott
Position 3, District 1 - outside
See Barber Page 14

NEW – 160 Acres - NW¼ - 29-27-15, W.I.M. This tract has an excellent stand of Ozark Bermudagrass. New fences include a 1,200 sq. ft. home, 32’ x 60’ shop w/ 16” lean-to, steel corrals, N½ - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. PRICE: $1,200,000.00

SOLD – 160 Acres - Blue Ribbon Farm - Excellent cropland (Pond Creek & Burford loam soils). Watered by a solar pump. PRICE: $300,000.00

NEW – 160 Acres - SE¼ - 3-24-13, W.I.M. This tract has 123 Acres of excellent grassland. Adjacent to Wainoka Fine Sandy Loam and Tulchum Lake Soil), and the balance being 37 acres of good cropland. Within 2 miles of Wainoka, Okla. PRICE: $550,000.00

NEW – 160 Acres - SE¼ - 25-27-15, W.I.M. This tract has 157 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 111 Acres of grass. NW¼ - 19-27-7, W.I.M., and NE¼ - 24-27-8, W.I.M., Grant County, Okla. EXCELLENT HUNTING, PRICE: $1,350,000.00

NEW – 160 Acres - NW¼ - 14-27-9, Alfalfa Co., Okla. This tract consists of 121 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 22 Acres of excellent grass. PRICE: $1,050,000.00

NEW – 160 Acres - Blue Ribbon Farm - Excellent cropland (Pond Creek & Burford loam soils). Watared by a windmill. LOCATION: From Arnett, Okla. Go 8.5 miles east on Hwy 60 to County Road 190. Then go south 1 mile to a road. House has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1,800 sq ft, 2 living rooms, laundry, new metal roof & windows. Detached metal garage. Metal shop is 40x30, concrete floors, two overhead doors. 537 Corniche Ave., Dacoma, OK. $200,000

SOLD – 160 Acres - NW¼ - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This new windmill. Located east of Alva, Okla. PRICE: $550,000.00

NEW – 160 Acres Excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek Silt Loam and Grant Silt Loam Soils) with all minerals intact. It is watered by a windmill. PRICE: $160,000.00

SOLD – 160 Acres - W½ - 11-25-14, Woods County, Oklahoma. This tract consists of 160 Acres of excellent cropland. PRICE: $575,000.00

SOLD – 160 Acres - NW¼ - 27-27-12, W.I.M., Grant County, Okla. WATERED BY A WINDMILL. Located east of Alva, Okla. PRICE: $310,000.00


SOLD – 160 Acres - SE¼ - 27-27-12, Woods County, Okla. This new windmill. Located east of Alva, Okla. PRICE: $550,000.00
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Tator Tot Casserole

FRI., NOV. 3rd:
Fish

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Soup Day

TUES., NOV. 7th:
Turkey & Dressing

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Featuring Wes Newton and Robert Bryan.
Music provided by Max Ridgway.
Refreshments will be served!

Graceful Arts Gallery and Studios carries
Nancy Russell pottery, Sheldon Russell books, Alva Mural Society prints, Calvin Graybill prints,
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bring in original artwork in the coming days, so stop in at Graceful Arts and let us help you
find that special something for everyone on your Christmas List!

November Classes & Workshops

Adult Class—November 8th 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Stained Glass Christmas Ornaments taught by
Jeremy Zeller! Learn how to make your own stained glass Christmas Ornaments and take one
home! Call to enroll—space is limited! $70.00 per person and all supplies and equipment are
provided! Call Graceful Arts to sign up!

Adult Class—November 18th 10:00 to Noon Make your own Christmas Cards taught by Carolyn
Gasaway! All supplies are provided. $20.00 per person! Call Graceful Arts to sign up!

Children and Youth Classes:

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$40.00 monthly
Thursday After School - Art Basics (kids ages Kindergarten to 10) Starts November 2nd
supplies provided $15.00 per week
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Four Kiowa City Council candidates run for three open positions

By Yvonne Miller

In the election next Tuesday, Nov. 7, four individuals are vying for three open positions on Kiowa’s City Council. Three of those people currently serve on the council and one has not served but would like to.

The Newsgram sent a uniform questionnaire to each candidate asking the following questions: If you’ve served what have you accomplished and are most proud of; Why are you qualified to serve; Why are you running; Volunteerism and community involvement; Your Top 3 priorities for the City of Kiowa; Anything else you want people to know.

Kiowa City Council Candidate BJ Duvall

Born in Kiowa, BJ Duvall is a farmer in the community. He and his wife Amie have two sons: Bryce and Brayden. He’s served on city council a little over 3 1/2 years. During his service, Duvall said the council has lowered taxes. He is proud to be part of a council that helped with drainage issues in the southeast corner of town.

Duvall holds a bachelor’s degree in ag business. “I feel it is my duty to serve my community,” he said. Duvall is a volunteer on Kiowa’s Fire Department and helps with multiple school activities.

Duvall’s Top 3 priorities for the city are: to upgrade Kiowa’s electric grid, explore options to lower Kiowa’s electric rates, and make the city more self-sufficient.

Kiowa City Council Candidate Brian Hill

Brian Hill was raised in Kiowa and is a lifelong farmer/rancher. His wife, Tammy, is a case manager at KDH. The Hills have two children: Caroline, age 6, and Harmon, age 4.

A councilmember for about the last 12 years, Hill said, “We have a pretty good, balanced board.” He said a major accomplishment of the council is the recently completed waterline replacement project. Hill said, “The water project was a necessary evil. I didn’t like the (financial) burden on consumers, but it was needed because some of those waterlines were so old – dangerous.”

Hill said he’s pleased to see the city and citizen efforts to clean up dilapidated structures around town. He’s proud that council has been able to drop the mill levy rate by five to seven mills. Hill is pleased that the city’s enterprise funds (electric, sewer, water and trash) are supporting themselves.

Discussing his qualifications to serve on the council, Hill said, “I have significant interest as my family lives here and pays taxes.” His reason for running again for council, “Someone once told me you have to have a servant’s heart” and “I want to make sure everyone is treated equally.”

Hill’s top priority for the City of Kiowa is to see the electrical conversion to make all the city’s voltage the same in increments over the next four years. That’s because if it doesn’t get done, and the city’s transfer station goes down, the city could need to purchase a step-down transformer that has a price-tag of at least $200,000, Hill explained.

Hill volunteers on Hazelton’s rural fire department.

Kiowa City Council Candidate Randy Robbins

Randy Robbins is a retired oil field worker who grew up in Harper County, Kansas. He moved to Kiowa eight years ago in 2015 and started a small retail business, Rusty Spur LLC in 2021. While he’s not served on Kiowa’s City Council previously, he was a member of Harper County Economic Development at the beginning “and was faced with pretty extensive agendas for four years.”

Robbins said he is running for city council “in hopes to improve a business structure and infrastructure that will get possible new business prospects through incentives. I want to help the existing businesses grow and not decline. I want to be open-minded to any type of suggestions as it takes many suggestions, not just one, to build the future of Kiowa,” he said. “I want to see the city council meet at a more convenient time for people to attend.”

Robbins said he wants the “public
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## PRIVATE SALES & AUCTION SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>County/State</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>680</td>
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<td>39</td>
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<td>Land + Home, Timber, Wildlife</td>
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<td>Lots</td>
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<td>Convenience Store - Recently Built</td>
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<td>11,242</td>
<td>McIntosh Co, OK</td>
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<td>780</td>
<td>Alfalfa Co, OK</td>
<td><strong>6 Tracts - CLASS 1 SOILS - Cropland</strong></td>
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<td>477</td>
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<td>148</td>
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<td>Cultivation, Agricultural, Grassland</td>
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<tr>
<td>381</td>
<td>Kay Co, OK</td>
<td>Cropland 3 tracts near Blackwell OK</td>
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<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>Ripley Co, MO</td>
<td>40-acre Private Lake &amp; Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>1545</td>
<td>Roger Mills Co, OK</td>
<td>Hunting Land - Lodge - Springs &amp; Creeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>640</td>
<td>Woods Co, OK</td>
<td>5 Farm Land Auction</td>
<td>$1,350,200</td>
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<td>159</td>
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<td>Cropland w/ Pond, Hunting with House</td>
<td>$645,000</td>
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<td>405</td>
<td>Ottawa Co, OK</td>
<td>High Yield Cropland in Welch, Oklahoma</td>
<td>$1,700,000</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td>Development/Cropland/River Clearwater</td>
<td>$879,900</td>
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<td>25/ac Private Lake w/house &amp; Hunting</td>
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<td>363</td>
<td>Kingman Co, KS</td>
<td>Lanes in Sections 5&amp;8-30S-10W</td>
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<td>Turn Key Recreational Property w/Lodge</td>
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<td>470</td>
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<td>Hunting on Cimarron River</td>
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<tr>
<td>1335</td>
<td>Barber Co, KS</td>
<td>Excellent Gyp Hill Hunting Sun City</td>
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<tr>
<td>6300</td>
<td>Barber Co, KS</td>
<td>Medicine River Hunting Ranch</td>
<td>$31,000,000</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Declining turkey populations, state park funding problems

By Senator Roland Pederson

Work has been steady at the Capitol as we continue through the remaining interim studies before the Nov. 3 deadline. This past week, we had two studies in our Tourism and Wildlife Committee of which I am vice chairman.

First, we heard from wildlife experts about why the state’s turkey population has been steadily declining in recent years and steps we can take to reverse the trend, which is happening nationwide. Experts attributed the decline to many factors; however, weather and uncontrolled predator populations are the main culprits.

Recommendations to improve our turkey population included increasing predator management, especially on private lands. Supporting landowners for eradicating predators, especially during nesting season will help the decline in turkey population. Private landowners can contact the ODWC to see how they can help with this issue.

I also co-chaired the other study, which was a cost analysis of making Hugo Lake a state park again. Currently, the Oklahoma Department of Tourism operates 32 state parks. Up until about a decade ago, Hugo Lake was under the control of the department and proponents want it designated as a state park to receive state funding. Speakers shared how the lake is a popular tourist attraction located near the extremely popular and often crowded Broken Bow/Hochatown area, which has experienced tremendous economic development in recent years.

However, OTRD doesn’t support the idea, and shared they have a significant backlog of maintenance projects with their current state parks because of improper funding and couldn’t possibly add another park. They noted that at least $350 million is necessary for the continued operation of our current parks, and immediate funding of $50 million will only allow the agency to address critical maintenance needs in the coming year. Without appropriate funding, they shared that many parks may risk closure. The needed repairs and upgrades of Hugo Lake were assessed in February, and it was estimated it would cost taxpayers over $4 million. Another assessment was done this month, and that total has now jumped to more than $10 million.

In closing, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is working on their new Strategic Highway Safety Plan and will be accepting public comment through Nov. 6, 2023. You can review the plan at https://ow.ly/R8Gq50PZVWO and submit your ideas to gflynn@odot.org.

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

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Kiowa

Kiowa City Council Candidate Jason Thayer

Jason Thayer is station manager at the Oklahoma Kansas Cooperatives and owner/operator of Jason Thayer Tire service. Married for 11 years, Thayer is the father of three. He’s been a resident of Kiowa for almost 13 years.

A current councilman, Thayer has served one previous term on city council. He said, “If I have accomplished anything on city council it would be that I have helped open up a little more freedom of living, including things like the animal ordinance allowing self-sufficiency in potential hard times to come and the removal of breed specific discrimination in canines.

“Ultimately I take pride in being able to just serve Kiowa. Cool heads always prevail and I’m content to be a part in matter of importance to things that affect all of us.” Thayer said his qualifications include “serving as an incumbent. But they do not end with that and have always revolved around logic, fairness, a good moral compass. I want for myself the same as I want for everyone in Kiowa. To me, that’s a good start for a servant leader. I want to see Kiowa remain free, fair and a place that is family centered. I serve in my local church as worship leader every week. I also help with manor service when it comes up.”

Thayer lists his Top 3 priorities for Kiowa as: “Self sufficiency. Growth. Individual prosperity.” He added, “As much torture that city council has been, I look forward to serving another term.”
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Janet Stout
Facebook Page
South Barber USD 255 school board candidates answer questions

By Yvonne Miller

Two seats on the South Barber USD 255 school board will be contested in the election next Tuesday, Nov. 7. One of those seats is Position 7 (an at-large position). Mike Miller is the incumbent and Anna Schurter also filed for the seat. The other seat is Position 1 (in District 2 – inside Kiowa). Deborah Helfrich is the incumbent. Others who filed for the seat are Tamara (Turner) Bogatay, Jarrod Inman and Bret Mott.

Since the filing period, Bogatay has recently moved from Kiowa to the family’s home near Hardtner, as the house was restored after a fire. Barber County Clerk Amy Sill said Bogatay’s name will appear on the ballot because it is too late to remove it. However, Bogatay cannot fill the seat as she no longer lives in Kiowa. Bogatay told the Newsgram she is fine with not running for school board at this time. “I had to prioritize,” she said.

The Newsgram sent each candidate a uniform questionnaire that asked: If you’ve served what have you accomplished and are most proud of? Why are you qualified to serve? Why are you running? Volunteerism and community involvement; Your Top 3 priorities for South Barber; Anything else you want people to know.

At-Large Position Mike Miller

Mike Miller, a retired educator, is married to Cheryl who works at the school and hospital. They’ve lived in Kiowa 18 years and have two daughters, Sarah and Felicia, and two sons, Jamie and Scott. Mike has served for six years on the school board. He feels the board “is maintaining a high expectation educational atmosphere and ensuring a safe environment for our students and staff.” He’s proud of “being on the board of education that continues to strengthen our school system.”

Miller lists his qualifications to run as, “My 30-plus years in education as a teacher, part time administrator, coach, supervising student teachers, numerous district committees, recipient of district and state teaching awards.” He’s running for school board again because, “I feel it is important for all community members to step up and serve whenever an opportunity presents itself. With my background in education, and a sole agenda to provide a solid educational system for our community, I feel that I am qualified to be a member of the school board.”

In addition to serving on school board, Miller is Hometown Market’s board president; a Monty Thompson Continuing Educational Foundation committee member; American Legion Post 146 commander; Recycling Committee member; and is on the Kiowa Tree Board.

Miller listed his Top 3 priorities for South Barber as: Maintaining a high level of expectation and a safe school system; repair and maintenance of the district’s buildings and grounds; an atmosphere of teamwork throughout the school system. Miller said to the folks in the district, “Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a school board member.”

At-Large Position Anna Schurter

Anna (Starzyk) Schurter is a 2000 SBHS graduate. “I was born in Kiowa and have lived here except for five years when I lived in Pittsburgh, Kansas. Upon returning to Kiowa I started working as a para for the junior high.” During that time she married Zeb Schurter. They have two daughters: Lily who is 15 and a 10th grader at South Barber High School (SBHS), and Saige who is 12 and a seventh grader at South Barber Junior High. After working five years at the school she obtained her EMT and AEMT licenses. She’s worked at Barber County EMS since 2013 to present.

“I have a strong, rich history with Kiowa and the school district. My mom, Arvetta (Burns) Starzyk, grew up here and graduated from Kiowa High in 1966. My dad helped build SBHS and also drove the bus and was a janitor for the school. My brother, my husband and his brother all graduated from SBHS.

“As the deputy director for EMS I have experience with policies and budgets working alongside the director of EMS to insure that we have success in the department. I have served on other boards such as the daycare board when it first got started and several church boards as well. As a young child I did volunteerism at the Kiowa Manor as a candy striper and helped with the food boxes at the Owl center in Hazelton. Having these experience as a young child lead me to keep volunteering as an adult. I have been on the PTO as a board member. I’m currently in Booster Club and Project Prom. I have decided to run for the school board because I want to try and make a difference and work together to make USD 255 a strong and cohesive district. I would tell people that I’m only one voice, one vote, but I would like to try and make positive changes that would benefit all that are affected – teachers, students and community.

“I believe that we need better communication. For me that is the foundation to any and all relationships. We need to come together to make the best choices for the district and work as a team; make sure we are doing our best to listen to the issues and work to fix them as a team. There is an old saying that I believe is so true: ‘united we stand and divided we fall.’ I feel like we need to work on getting more united. I’m a true SB USD 255 alumni. My heart has always been Black and Gold. I want to make this district the best again and watch SB flourish.”

Position 1 (in District 2 in Kiowa) Deborah Helfrich

Deborah A. Helfrich works with her husband Carl at his accounting office. They’ve lived in Kiowa for over 40 years. She currently serves on the South Barber USD 255 board as she has for about the last 23 years.

“The accomplishments on the board are not mine to claim alone. Those belong to the board. We are only capable of the district’s goals and plans when we work together as a board. This involves being prepared for the meetings and coming together to voice our own opinions and ideas. I have worked hard to be a strong and knowledgeable board member. I attend regional, district and state meetings and report back to the board what issues were discussed. I listen to students, staff and parents when they have questions or issues. Those concerns are always taken back to the board for their information.”

Helfrich said, “I am most proud of the students who have graduated from South Barber and what they have become. The
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decisions we make on the board has to be for how it helps the future of our children. We have South Barber graduates who have become doctors, financial advisors, nurses, chiropractors, farmers, highway patrolman, beauticians, men and women of the military branches, business owners, physical therapists, accountants, teachers, mothers and fathers. We have had students who have worked for a United States president, the FBI and for corporations and businesses overseas. These are their accomplishments. I just like to believe some of my support and service helped them, she said.

“I know my years of service and my willingness to continue to learn about the changes in education makes me qualified to continue serving on the board,” Helfrich said. “I am running for school board for the same reason I ran 23 years ago – the children! I first ran to be involved in my children’s education. I am now involved for my grandchildren and the children of our community.”

Of her community involvement, Helfrich said, “I am active in my church, St. John the Apostle Parish. I am currently a trustee for the Myrtle King Testamentary Trust for Kiowa and also a trustee for the Robert L and Grace P. Hays Charitable Gift Foundation for the Kiowa community.”

Helfrich lists the top priorities for the district as: “Keeping our focus on what is best for the children of our district. I would continue to find the best staff and educators for the students. I know the importance of our administrators and staff to evaluate, update and improve programs to ensure the best learning experience for our students.

“A mother priority is continuing to plan ahead on the needs of the district. This includes repairs and maintenance of our buildings, property and transportation. Priorities of projects are an important part of being on the board. A board member must also be a good steward with the District’s financial resources. The decisions the school board make affects the students, taxpayers of our communities and the future of our district. I would like the opportunity to continue to serve on the school board for our district and for the children of our communities. I will continue to work hard for the students, our teachers and our staff who are dedicated to the education of our children.”

**Position 1 (in District 2 in Kiowa)**

**Jarrod Inman**

Jarrod Inman is Production Foreman at SandRidge Energy. He and his wife Sammi have three children: Dyson (fifth grade), River (first grade) and Laken (almost 11 months old). They’ve lived in Kiowa for 12 years. He lived in Waynoka for 16 years and then Cherokee before moving to Kiowa.

Inman said he’s qualified to serve because, “I feel I have a skill set that is driven by communication and immediate action. Working as a production foreman in the oil industry, it has taken these two skills, along with others, to be an effective and efficient manager. I understand the importance of open and honest communication between the community and the schools. With having the skill set of immediate action, I also have the ability to be patient with decisions to ensure there is a complete understanding of the situation before a final decision is made.”

Inman said he is running for school board because, “Ever since student teaching at South Barber in 2011 and moving to Kiowa, I have loved this community and strive for its school system to be successful. I strongly believe developing a solid foundation within the school system for our young children is just one of many ways I can help serve this community.”

Inman is currently a Kiowa volunteer firefighter and serves on the South Barber Rec board. He also volunteers his time as a coach for numerous sports for the rec commission.

He lists his top three priorities for South Barber as: “Academics/athletics - I want to make sure our students and athletes are being set up for success and are given every opportunity and tools to do just that; Communication between the community and board – I would just like to help open those lines of communication so voices are being heard; Staff’s support – I want to make sure our staff is happy and getting the support that is needed to be successful.”

Inman wants voters to know, “I am committed to a vision of high expectations for our young people and will focus highly on ways to improve student achievement. I would do this by having a strong collaborative relationship with our community and staff. I feel like this is the only and best way for our district to make sure we are achieving our goals.”

**Position 1 (in District 2 in Kiowa)**

**Bret Mott**

Raised in Kiowa, Bret Mott is a third generation farmer. Born at the Kiowa District Hospital, his wife Jana is the Director of Human Resources at KDH. The Motts have three children. “Our son Lukas is a senior at South Barber this year and will graduate in May. Our daughter Lily is a sophomore and our daughter Ila started pre-K at South Barber Elementary School.”

Mott said he is qualified to serve because, “I was born and raised in Kiowa and proudly graduated from South Barber in 2004. With three children currently enrolled in the school district, I have a deep rooted commitment to our school’s success and our community’s well being. My extensive experience on various boards, including my seven year tenure on the OK COOP/OKC Cooperatives board, my service on the Kiowa Township since 2018, and my past involvement with South Barber Recreation Commission, underscores my dedication to community service.

“In addition, I served as a coach for junior high and high school basketball from 2009-2021. I am driven by a genuine passion for the continued success and growth of our school system and our community. I believe my track record of service, coupled with my personal investment and our school district, positions me to make a meaningful and positive contribution as a member of the school board.”

Mott said he’s running for the school board because, “South Barber’s mission is to guide each student along his or her path from dependence to independence to passionately enrich our world. My personal values mirror this mission, and my primary goal is to retain our children in our school and community. Over the past 20 years, we’ve witnessed a steady decline in enrollment, and I’m concerned that South Barber may be at risk. I am eager to actively participate in the decision making process to help find
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6:30 South Barber FFA will recite their Greenhand speeches
5:00-7:00 KDH will be doing blood pressure checks
Mott said, “The majority of my volunteerism over the years has been to the school helping with track meets, helping in the press box at football games, and wherever else needed. My family and I attend the Driftwood Christian Church.”

Mott lists his Top 3 priorities for South Barber as “growing the enrollment, retaining the enrollment, and attracting high quality teachers.”

The husband and father in this photo is Josh Rainey of Enid who died in a semi-train crash last Thursday in Kiowa. He leaves his wife and their five children. Donations may be made to the family two different ways as specified in the story.

The OK/KS Cooperative office sits maybe 20 yards from the railroad tracks. Longtime employee Debbie Leech said of the crash, “It was a huge boom like an explosion – it shook the building!”

Enid father of five dies in train/semi crash on Kiowa’s west tracks

By Yvonne Miller

At 11:49 a.m. Oct. 26, the life of Josh Rainey ended on the railroad tracks on the west side of Kiowa, Kansas.

According to Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Lieutenant Bryan Quick, Rainey was westbound on KS-2 (which is Kiowa’s Main Street) at milepost 4, which is .15 miles west of KS-8.

Rainey, 40 of Enid, was driving a 2003 Peterbilt tractor/truck. Quick confirmed the crossing arms were down with lights going off when Rainey “maneuvered around the railroad crossings and was struck by a train.”
The train was traveling approximately 65 mph, the trooper said the railroad told him. That impact propelled the cab area of the semi along with the train engine about 4,000 feet to the south, nearly three-quarters of a mile. Numerous emergency vehicles were at that location, which could only be accessed by driving through a field. Reportedly no one else was injured and the train did not derail. All area emergency agencies responded, including Kiowa Police, Barber County Sheriff, KHP, Barber County EMS, Kiowa Fire Department.

Quick said this wreck shutdown the trains for about seven and a half hours. Leech said, “To see what I realized was a semi engine rolling to a stop – and the hood and fender.” Her first thought was, “Will I recognize the truck by the fender?” She grabbed a truck driver who was unloading his items at the co-op to go look with her. She said that man recognized the truck was from an Enid company.

Since the fatality accident, some locals learned of a few connections to Rainey’s family, such as Kiowa woman Tammy Hill’s sister lives in Enid and is a neighbor and good friend of the Rainey family. Rainey leaves behind a wife and five children ranging from about age 17 to one.

Tammy said cash or check donations can be made through Oakwood Christian Church for the family. Just put Rainey family in the memo. The address is Oakwood Christian Church, 401 North Oakwood Road, Enid, OK, 73703.

Or you can donate another way. Friend Kylie Telinde organized a GoFundMe fundraiser for the Rainey family.
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BILLIE JO CLARK HUGHES

Billie Jo Clark Hughes of Tulsa, formerly of Quinton, Oklahoma, was born on May 11, 1930 to Harvey (Hob) and Beulah (Boo Boo) Clark and passed away in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on October 29, 2023 at the age of 93.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Hughes Ernst of Tulsa, cousin (and best friend) Tom (Tommy) Clark of Alva, Oklahoma, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

After graduating from Amorita High School, Billie Jo attended Northwestern College in Alva for a year before transferring to Oklahoma State University (then called Oklahoma A & M) where she majored in Physical Education and even played basketball for Valerie Colvin, a long-time OSU faculty member and pioneer in Physical Education. While attending OSU she met the love of her life, Diamond (Smith) Hughes, whom she married on December 25, 1950 in Byron, Oklahoma.

After the wedding they traveled to Bakersfield, California, where Diamond served two years in the Navy. Upon returning to Oklahoma, they lived and worked on their ranch in Featherston, Oklahoma, until they moved to Tulsa in 2000. In retirement, they regularly traveled to Stillwater to cheer for OSU football, basketball and baseball teams. After living in Tulsa for ten years, Billie Jo and Diamond moved to Montereau where Billie Jo attended Protestant Church services, was active in the Alpha Delta Pi sorority and a member of the Birthday Girls.

Billie Jo was proceeded in death by her husband, Diamond, her parents, her sister Mary Darlene Clark, and son-in-law Dan Ernst.

Graveside services will be held at Quinton City Cemetery at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023, under the direction of Mallory-Martin Funeral Home and Crematory of Stigler.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Quinton, P.O. Box 545, Quinton, OK 74561 or to the Oklahoma State University Foundation for the II Jo’s Women’s Basketball Endowed Scholarship fund, 23–82030. Checks should be made payable to Oklahoma State University and mailed to the OSU Foundation, PO Box 1649, Stillwater OK 74076–1749.

MALLORY DEWART SEEVERS

Funeral services for Mallory Seevers will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, November 4, 2023, at Bible Baptist Church with Pastor John Clapp officiating. Burial will follow in the Alva Municipal Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva. There will be a visitation with family present from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at Marshall Funeral Home.

MICHELE ‘MIKE’ WAER WAGAR

Michiel “Mike” Wade Wagar of Nash, Oklahoma, departed this earthly life and entered the presence of our Lord on October 25, 2023. Mike lived a life deeply rooted in faith, love and service to God. He exemplified the teachings of Jesus Christ in all aspects of his life, demonstrating compassion, kindness, generosity and unwavering faith.

Mike was born on January 7, 1943, to Wade and Vera (Newell) Wagar, and graduated from Nash High School with the Class of 1961. He proudly served our country in the Army National Guard 45th Infantry Division 189th Artillery from 1962 to 1967. He met his beloved Carol Ann (Smart) at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and they were married on December 20, 1964, in Deer Creek, Oklahoma.

He loved the land in Grant County where he grew up. In his school years, Mike was active in Boy Scouts, 4-H, FFA, and band. He farmed wheat and alfalfa for his entire life and received great joy in the farming process from planting to harvesting, especially watching crops grow. He received awards for his progressive actions toward agriculture and conservation and was named Honorary Chapter Farmer in the Jet-Nash FFA. He loved raising sheep, continuing his dad and grandad’s dream until the early 1990s. Mike had a special love for baby calves, baby lambs, and puppies.

Mike was a master photographer and woodworker, sharing his artistic creations across the country with friends, family, churches, and selling works in galleries. His photographs of flowers, wheat, wildlife, and sunsets were favorites, as were turning wood on the lathe and wood carving. He was a continual learner and took classes at Home Studio in Utah and at Northwestern OSU under Dr. Jerry Brownrigg.

Some of Mike’s happiest times since retiring from farming were discovering the beauty that God put in a piece of wood. He and John Wilkins shared good times together running the sawmill and said sawing into a log was like Christmas morning—such a gift to discover the design inside, burls and knots delighting him especially.

He loved sharing wood with other woodworkers and encouraged several to try carving and turning too. He was happy knowing his pieces grace the homes of others, either as mantels, vases, or bowls.

Mike and Carol loved traveling together and especially enjoyed spending time with their Pinehaven friends and neighbors in Cuchara, Colorado, where they have had a cabin since 1980.

He served as a deacon, elder, chairman of the board, property committee member, search committee chair, and youth group sponsor of the First Christian Church in Nash, and on the board of the Cuchara Chapel in Cuchara. He touched the lives of many through his dedication to living an exemplary life and his willingness to extend a helping hand to those in need. He was a member of the Northwest Oklahoma Woodturners Association and served on the rural water board, bank board, cemetery board, and Lion’s Club.

He is survived by his wife Carol Wagar, son, Will and Meredith Wagar of Enid, son, Travis and Jill Wagar of Bentonville, Arkansas, five grandchildren: Michelle and Josh Barnthouse of Tampa, Florida, Anna and Lodge Scott of Waurika, Oklahoma, Meredith Wagar of Enid, Sam Wagar of Nash, and girlfriend Lindy Theophilus of Alva, and Wes Wagar of Bozeman.
Montana. He is also survived by his sister, Patti and Kent Wayman of Nash, Harriet and Dallas Perry of Charleston, South Carolina, who lived in the home as a sister for years, sister-in-law, Nancy (Smart) and Kenneth Webster of Bethany, and many nieces and nephews who treasure their Uncle Mike. He is loved by many Wagar, Newell, and Small cousins, Carol’s cousins, classmates, and many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents Wade and Vera Wagar; an infant brother; grandparents, Frank and Gertrude (Small) Wagar, grandparents, Oral “Dick” and Maude (Ragains) Newell, parents-in-law, Austin and Doris (Eberle) Smart, and sister-in-law, Barbara and Dr. Charles “Chuck” Dohner.

A celebration of life is planned for 2 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at Nash Christian Church followed by a graveside service at New Home Cemetery in Nash, under the care of Wilson Funeral Home in Pond Creek. The celebration of life will be available on Nash Christian Church’s YouTube channel. Visitation with the family will be at the Nash Christian Church on Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Nash Christian Church Youth Group Fund or Bennie’s Barn Equine Therapy, Enid. Wilson Funeral Home will serve as custodian of the memorials at PO Box 478, Pond Creek, OK 73766.
The Alva Pumpkin Patch wants to THANK everyone who supported us on our 20th year of selling pumpkins. As always, our profits will be donated to the community.

A special thank you to VAP, Foote's Farm Supply, Joey Melton and the many NWOSU sports teams that helped us set up, unload and tear down.

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A Fort Scott cowboy holds form and hangs on for his 8 seconds in the saddle bronc riding event at the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Rodeo Thursday evening. Photo by Desiree Morehead

A Fort Scott cowboy holds form and hangs on for his 8 seconds in the saddle bronc riding event at the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Rodeo Thursday evening. Photo by Desiree Morehead

PICK YOUR FAVORITE FLAVOR
- Taten Graves is cleverly dressed as a vending machine. Age 8, Taten is a second grader at South Barber and having fun at Kiowa's Fall Fest. Photo by Yvonne Miller

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Each Year, the Alva Rotary Club organizes Toys for Tots, which provides Christmas gifts for 200-300 children in our community.

Rotary is currently seeking donations to help with Toys for Tots this holiday season. If you would like to donate, make checks payable to Rotary, and send to PO Box 356 Alva, Ok 73717.

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Stained Glass Christmas Ornaments
Taught by Jeremy Zeller
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$70.00 per person

November 18: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Christmas Card Making
Taught by Carolyn Gasaway
All supplies provided. $20.00 per person

December 15 and 16: Digital Photography
December 15 Class is 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
December 16 Class is 10:00 am to 12:00 p.m.
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A Colby Community College cowboy tries to stay on the bull for his 8 seconds during the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Rodeo. Photo by Desiree Morehead

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A western Oklahoma cowboy makes the leap to wrestle his steer during the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Rodeo. Photo by Desiree Morehead

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vs Southern Nazarene

Soccer
Wednesday, November 1st @ 6:00 PM
vs Southern Nazarene

Volleyball
Thursday, November 2nd @ 6:00 PM
vs East Central

Football
Saturday, November 4th @ 2:00 PM
vs Southern Arkansas

For more information on happenings around Northwestern, visit www.riderangersride.com, follow us on twitter at @NWOSUAthletics or visit our Facebook page.
‘EYE’LL’ HAVE A PUMPKIN SPICE LATTE PLEASE – These are some of the unique carved and decorated pumpkins displayed at Kiowa’s Fall Fest Sunday afternoon that had to be moved inside because of the wet, wintry weather. Photos by Yvonne Miller

DREAMY IN PINK – It might have been Kiowa’s Fall Fest, but this face-painting team looks pretty girly in shades of pink and pastels. Addyson Bryan volunteered her face-painting skills while Kali McKinley enjoyed the receiving end - enjoying with her unicorn. Photo by Yvonne Miller
PUMPKIN PATCH SURPRISE – It’s not everyday you find two pretty blondes in the pumpkin patch like these young ladies (from left) Piper Mostert and Jessica Jahay. This photo board was a popular place at Kiowa’s Fall Fest that was moved indoors because of weather that felt more like winter. Photo by Yvonne Miller

MORE ADORABLE THAN THE GREAT PUMPKIN IS HUGE – Naturally beautiful, South Barber senior Arrington Allen holds the sweetest little puppy – also known as Creighton Henson, 2-year-old daughter of Roy and Dru Henson of Kiowa. They were among the crowd enjoying Kiowa’s Fall Fest Sunday, despite being inside due to cold, damp weather. Photo by Yvonne Miller
Good Luck From Commissioner Randy McMurphy & Paula McMurphy, Alva

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Group seeks to clear names of all accused, convicted or executed for witchcraft in Massachusetts

By Steve LeBlanc
BOSTON (AP) — In 1648, Margaret Jones, a midwife, became the first person in Massachusetts — the second in New England — to be executed for witchcraft, decades before the infamous Salem witch trials.

Nearly four centuries later, the state and region are still working to come to grips with the scope of its witch trial legacy.

The latest effort comes from a group dedicated to clearing the names of all those accused, arrested or indicted for witchcraft in Massachusetts, whether or not the accusations ended in hanging.

The Massachusetts Witch-Hunt Justice Project, made up of history buffs and descendants, is hoping to persuade the state to take a fuller reckoning of its early history, according to Josh Hutchinson, the group’s leader.

Hundreds of individuals were accused of witchcraft in what would become the Commonwealth of Massachusetts between 1638 and 1693. Most escaped execution.

While much attention has focused on clearing the names of those put to death in Salem, most of those caught up in witch trials throughout the 1600s have largely been ignored, including five women hanged for witchcraft in Boston between 1648 and 1688.

“It’s important that we correct the injustices of the past,” said Hutchinson, who noted he counts both accusers and victims among his ancestors. “We’d like an apology for all of the accused or indicted or arrested.”

For now, the group has been collecting signatures for a petition but hopes to take their case to the Statehouse.
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From Page 38
Group


Another accused Boston witch, known as Goodwife Ann Glover or Goody Glover, was hanged in the city in 1668. A plaque dedicated to her is located on the front of a Catholic church in the city’s North End neighborhood, describing her as “the first Catholic martyr in Massachusetts.” It’s one of the few physical reminders of the city’s witch trial history.

The witch justice group helped successfully spearhead a similar effort in Connecticut, home of the first person executed for witchcraft in the American colonies in 1647 -- Alse Young. The last witchcraft trial in Connecticut happened in 1697 and ended with the charges being dismissed.

Connecticut state senators in May voted by 34-1 to absolve 12 women and men convicted of witchcraft — 11 of whom were executed — more than 370 years ago and apologize for the “miscarriage of justice” that occurred over a dark 15-year-period of the state’s colonial history.

The resolution, which lists the nine women and two men who were executed and the one woman who was convicted and given a reprieve, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 121-30. Because it’s a resolution, it doesn’t require the governor’s signature.

For many, the distant events in Boston, Salem and beyond are both fascinating and personal. That includes David Allen Lambert, chief genealogist for the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Lambert counts his 10th great grandmother — Mary Perkins Bradbury — among the accused who was supposed to be hanged in 1692 in Salem but escaped execution.

“We can’t change history but maybe we can send the accused an apology,” he said. “It kind of closes the chapter in a way.”

Massachusetts has already made efforts to come to terms with its history of witch trials — proceedings that allowed “spectral evidence” in which victims could testify that the accused harmed them in a dream or vision.

That effort began almost immediately when Samuel Sewall, a judge in the 1692-1693 Salem witch trials, issued a public confession in a Boston church five years later, taking “the blame and shame of” the accusation.

See Group Page 42
The Woods County Mineral Owners Association Annual Meeting and Dinner

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Northwest Technology Center, at 6:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker will be
Reagan E. Bradford, Attorney,
with Bradford and Wilson Law Firm in Oklahoma City

Dinner will be served prior to the meeting. One free meal will be provided per paid membership. Additional meals are available for purchase at a cost of $20.00 per person. All persons planning to attend the Annual Meeting and Dinner are asked to contact Kay Decker, WCMOA Board Secretary, at 580.327.7649 or by email at KJ.Decker@nwosu.edu. Membership Dues will need to be paid that night. A business meeting will be held immediately following the Guest Speaker's presentation, in which new Officers and Directors will be elected for the upcoming year. All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend.

The Woods County Mineral Owners Association

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NOV 15TH – 10 A.M. – LIVE & ONLINE
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NOV 16TH – 2 P.M. – LIVE & ONLINE
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NOV 16TH – 6 P.M. – ONLINE

NOV 29TH – 10 A.M. – LIVE & ONLINE
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trials and asking for forgiveness. In 1711, colonial leaders passed a bill clearing the names of some convicted in Salem.

In 1957, the state Legislature issued a kind of apology for Ann Pudeator and others who “were indicted, tried, found guilty, sentenced to death and executed” in 1692 for witchcraft. The resolution declared the Salem trials “shocking, and the result of a wave of popular hysterical fear of the Devil in the community.”

In 2001, acting Gov. Jane Swift signed a bill exonerating five women executed during the witch trials in Salem.

In 2017, Salem unveiled a memorial for the victims. The ceremony came 325 years to the day when Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Rebecca Nurse and Sarah Wildes were hanged at a site in Salem known as Proctor’s Ledge. Nineteen were hanged during the Salem witch trials while a 20th victim was pressed to death.

In 2022, lawmakers exonerated Elizabeth Johnson Jr., clearing her name 329 years after she was convicted of witchcraft in 1693 and sentenced to death at the height of the Salem witch trials. Johnson is believed to be the last accused Salem witch to have her conviction set aside. Other states have worked to confront similar histories.

In Pownal, Vermont, a town that borders Massachusetts and New York, a dedication ceremony was held last month for a historical marker recognizing the survivor of Vermont’s only recorded witch trial. Widow Krieger was said to have escaped drowning in the Hoosic River when tried as a witch in 1785, according to the Legends and Lore marker.

Accusers believed witches floated but Krieger sank and was saved, the marker states. The Sept. 16 dedication ceremony included a witches’ walk, in which people dressed as witches walked across a bridge to the marker site along the Hoosic River.

“I am sure Widow Krieger would have been quite happy to join our witches’ walk today in defiance of those who feel they have the right to accuse someone they feel looks different, acts different or has a personality that they might find odd, of being a witch,” said Joyce Held, a member of the Pownal Historical Society, which worked with the Bennington Museum to get the marker.

Kids return to school, plan to trick-or-treat as Maine communities start to heal from mass shooting

By David Sharp

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — Children returned to school Tuesday and planned to go trick-or-treating in the evening after spending days locked in their homes while authorities combed the area for the man responsible for the deadliest mass shooting in Maine’s history.

Hundreds of students were back in class at Lewiston High School, petting therapy dogs and signing a large banner that read “Lewiston Strong” — the community’s new motto. Days earlier, the campus had been transformed into a law enforcement command post with three helicopters utilizing the athletic fields and 300 vehicles filling the parking lot.

“Today’s going to be hard,” said Superintendent Jake Langlais. “But I think there’s strength in gathering, in unity, in getting back together.”

Jayden Sands, a 15-year-old sophomore, said one of his football coaches lost four friends, one of his best friends lost a friend, and his mom’s friend got shot four times but survived. He said he’s glad to be back at school but is also worried about his safety. He said everyone at school will “try to act like everything is fine, but it’s not.”

“A lot of people shocked and scared,” he said. “I’m just happy to be here. You know, another day to live. Hopefully it gets better.”

On Wednesday night, a U.S. Army reservist and firearms instructor from Bowdoin fatally shot 18 people at a bowling alley and a bar in Lewiston. That sparked a massive search on land and water for 40-year-old Robert Card, who was found dead Friday. Police and other authorities issued a shelter-in-place order for residents while trying to track down the suspected shooter.

Calista Karas, a senior at Lewiston High, said students still have a lot to process. Karas was frightened while sheltering at home and, when the shootings happened, couldn’t immediately reach her mother at work.

“You know, I just didn’t believe something like this would happen here, to us,” Karas said. “And I know that sounds like detached, kind of like, ‘Oh, we wouldn’t be affected.’ But you never think it’s gonna happen to you when it happens.”

When she walked through the school doors on Tuesday, Karas said she felt her stomach drop a bit.

“No because I felt unsafe,” she said. “But because I felt like, what’s going to happen from here on out?”

She thinks it’ll take a long time before the community feels back to normal. A lot people, including her, don’t feel like celebrating Halloween.

“It was a weird experience to walk though school and see... life going on,” she said.

Langlais, the superintendent, said staff and students will take it one day at a time, understanding that some will need more support than others, depending on their proximity to deadly rampage.

“Having helicopters with search lights and infrared sensors over your homes and apartments is pretty uncomfortable,” he said. “So we’re recognizing that everybody had some level of impact.”

Five months before the shooting, Card’s family alerted the local sheriff that they were becoming concerned about his deteriorating mental health while he had access to firearms, authorities said Monday.

Card underwent a mental health evaluation this summer after accusing soldiers of calling him a pedophile, shaving one and locking himself in his room during training in New York, officials said. A bulletin sent to police shortly after last week’s attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks after “hearing voices and threats to shoot up” a military base.
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ARENA EVENTS
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Nov. 8th - CD Productions Buckle Series 024
Nov. 9th - Forever 7 Jr Rodeo
Nov. 10th - Cuts Judging Contest
Nov. 11th - Josie Morgan Benefit Barrel Race
Nov. 12th - 4 of 4 CD Productions Buckle Series 034
Nov. 13th - 4 of 4 CD Productions Buckle Series 044
Nov. 14th - FFA Labor Auction
Nov. 15th - Jr High Barrel Race
Nov. 16th - Forever 7 Jr Rodeo
Nov. 17th - Forever 7 Jr Rodeo
Nov. 18th - Forever 7 Jr Rodeo
Nov. 19th - Forever 7 Jr Rodeo
Dec. 2nd - Kiowa County 4D Barrel Race

All Events Are Listed on our Facebook Page

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come get'em. Mick of Kiowa,
KS. 580-829-3090

Garage Sales
Gigantic Sale
115 E 2nd & Cherokee in
Cherokee, OK. Fri & Sat, Nov
3 & 4, 10am-5pm. Electronics,
etc, bicycles, jewelry, furniture,
household gadgets, dishes, pots
& pans, toys, Christmas decor,
collectibles, lots of misc.

Estate Sale
Max Leslie Estate. 521 Lake
Dr., Alva. Fri, Nov 3 - Sat, Nov
4, 9am-4pm. Look at Full Page
Ad. Sale by Jan’s Collectibles.
580-829-3062

Round 2
Giant Estate Sale, Fri, Nov
3 and Sat, Nov 4. 8am-4pm.
Many new clothing items, all
sizes and Estate treasures. 802
Maple St., Burlington, OK.
Proceeds will go to Christian
Non-Profits, especially Stamp
Out Starvation (SOS) and
Cookson Hills Christian School

Inside Estate Sale
Lot of misc crafting material,
some furniture. 1203 2nd St.
Alva. Thur & Fri 4-7pm. Sat
8am-2pm

Miscellaneous
Donate Clean Clothing
Annual Warmth for Winter
clothing & blanket collection
in progress at College Hill
Church of Christ, Alva. Help
those who don’t have enough
funds by donating your gently
used, clean (no repairs needed)
clothes for all ages. Warm adult
and children’s clothing and
blankets needed. Leave behind
church building, 1102 College,
in storage trailer. Thanks! Call
580-327-0130 with questions.
Giveaway 12/2

Art Under Foot
History & Making of Turkish &
Oriental Rugs at Graceful Arts
Center on November 10 from
6-8pm. Rugs will be available
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Open to the public

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Alfalfa County Sheriff’s Office Logs

Monday, October 23, 2023
During this day was one traffic stops.
8:16 a.m. – Reporting party advised someone took a grader for a joy ride last night and hit another grader at the County Barn.
11:20 a.m. – Reporting party advised someone had been rear ended at United parking lot.
11:48 a.m. – Welfare check needed on a juvenile. Deputy spoke with the juvenile, and all was okay.
12:40 p.m. – Report of a brown bulldog was loose on 9th Street and Oklahoma.

Tuesday, October 24, 2023
During this day were two traffic stops.
2:48 a.m. – Medic needed in the 100 block of Grand for a female having issues breathing. Medic took the patient to St. Mary’s Hospital in Enid.
11:49 a.m. – Report of a suspicious man stumbling into the road south of the Carmen turn on OK-8. Advised the male was wearing a red shirt, blue jeans, black hat and was soaking wet. A second call came in about the same man. Deputy en route. Deputy made contact with individual just north of Canadian on OK-8. Deputy gave the individual a ride to Major County.
4:12 p.m. – Reporting party advised a door at a house in the 300 block of Kansas was open and insecure. Advised no one is living there. They believed the owner to be in a nursing home and no one should be there. Officer en route. Officer advised all was okay.
10:32 p.m. – Welfare check needed at Grand and Adams.

Wednesday, October 25, 2023
During this day were four traffic stops.
8:21 a.m. – Medic needed in the 400 block of a female that has fallen and has unknown injuries. Medic took the patient to Share Medical Center.
12:59 p.m. – Medic needed on Harmon Road for a male with kidney failure. Medic took the patient to St. Mary’s Hospital in Enid.
5:46 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver in a maroon Chevy S10 on County Road 590. Reporting party advised he is tired of all the speeders. Reporting party said he is following the vehicle, and he is going to try to get them to pull over and he will deal with it himself. Reporting party advised they both are pulled over at the police department.
6:53 p.m. – Medic needed in the 300 block of Massachusetts for a male who had been going through chemo and is weak, high temperature and vomiting.

See Sheriff Page 45
From Page 44

Sheriff

Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

10:28 p.m. – Report of an intoxicated driver at Jiffy Trip.

Thursday, October 26, 2023

During his day were five traffic stops.

2:01 a.m. – Report of a suspicious vehicle at 9th Street and Oklahoma. Advised it had been parked with its headlights on for some time. Officer spoke with the owner. Advised they had just forgot to turn them off.

9:30 p.m. – Reporting party advised her 40-year-old daughter has not spoken to anybody for the last 48 hours. Advised she has a history of substance abuse and that she might be in Wichita, Kansas. Deputy advised to have the missing person put in NCIC and issue a BOLO.

Friday, October 27, 2023

During this day were four traffic stops.

7:49 a.m. – Medic needed in the 900 block of Massachusetts for a female with severe leg pain. Medic took the patient to St. Mary’s Hospital in Enid.

9:51 a.m. – Reporting party advised the person they reported missing the night before had made contact and all was okay.

11:54 a.m. – Reporting party would like to report an theft on County Road 570 and US-64.

2:16 p.m. – Report of a possible domestic issue at 9th Street and Oklahoma. Deputy advised all was okay.

2:22 p.m. – Welfare check needed in the 200 block of Massachusetts who hasn’t spoken to her sister for three months. Contact was made with the sister, who advised she would get ahold of the reporting party.

4:28 p.m. – Reporting party advised of a suspicious man on a bike that was on her nieces property in Nescutunga. Advised the niece was out of town and no one was supposed to be there. Deputy en route. Deputy advised the neighbors had company and the male had parked his bike under the nieces porch. All was okay.

6:17 p.m. – Medic needed in the 100 block of Murray for a female who was bedridden with severe back pain. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

6:51 p.m. – Officer advised a male came up to him and advised of a suspicious male standing in front of his house, buy the football field, wearing body armor. Officer advised dispatch to have another officer to meet him at his location. Officer advised all was okay.

10:08 p.m. – Medic needed for a male with difficulties breathing. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

10:46 p.m. – Report of a suspicious SUV by the side of the road, at OK-58 and Kansas state line, with their bright lights and hazards on. Reporting party advised they didn’t see anyone and didn’t know if they maybe needed help. Deputy en route. Deputy
From Page 45

Sheriff

advised no vehicle in the area, but he did find two horses out. Deputy got them off the highway and dispatch located the owner.

Saturday, October 28, 2023
8:23 a.m. – Medic needed in the 900 block of Massachusetts for a female who had fallen and is in pain. Medic took the patient to St. Mary’s Hospital in Enid. 8:45 a.m. – Caller advised their neighbor’s dog had run into their fence and killed one of their chickens. 4:48 p.m. – Automated call to report a vehicle accident at OK-8 and Caddo. Dispatch made contact with the driver. They stated they were driving but there was no accident. All was okay.

8:05 p.m. – Reporting party advised they may possibly have a prowler in his yard. Advised it sounded like someone digging. He also stated he has camera’s but can’t make anything out and he can’t see the area the noise is coming from, from the window. Officer in the area and advised he seen nothing. Reporting party then advised it sounded like someone breaking. Officer advised all was okay. He stated it was rain on the tin roof, which was loud.
8:06 p.m. – Medic needed in the 200 block of 8th Street for a female with an earache, nausea, confused and has chest pains. No transport needed.

Alfalfa County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 893 page 532: Gwen D. DeBusk; Terry L. Johnson and Pam Johnson and Cathy A. Westbrook and John Westbrook, convey unto Joel Luna. Lots 11 and 12, Hodgden Second Sub-Division in Section 1, Township 26 north, Range 9, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 893 page 561: Teresa A. Looser conveys unto Johnny Higdon and Pamela Higdon. Lots 1 and 2, and the south half of the northeast quarter, also described as the northeast quarter of Section 3, Township 27 north, Range 10, WIM. Joint tenancy warranty deed.


Book 893 page 694: Darrell Schroeder and Sandra Schroeder convey unto Darryl Schroeder and Sandra Schroeder. Lots 1 and 2 in Block 33, Original Town of Carmen, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Book 893 page 714: Staci Colleen Grunewald conveys unto Jeffery P. Fellers and Terry Graham. South half of the southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 28 north, Range 12, WIM. Warranty deed.

Book 893 page 716: Stanley Dewayne Grunewald and Patricia Lynn Grunewald convey unto Jeffery P. Fellers and Terry Graham. South half of the southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 28 north, Range 12, WIM. Warranty deed.

Book 893 page 720: Tyler Grunewald conveys unto Jeffery P. Fellers and Terry Graham. South half of the southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 28 north, Range 12, WIM. Warranty deed.

Book 893 page 718: Casey Rae Long and Jason Kyle Long conveys unto Jeffery P. Fellers and Terry Graham. South half of the southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 28 north, Range 12, WIM. Warranty deed.

Schroeder. Lots 1 and 2 in Block 33, Original Town of Carmen, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Mortgages

Book 893 page 563: Jacob R. Peery and Jessica J. Peery to Farm Credit Mid-America. A tract of land located in the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 24 north, Range 9, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: $411,324.01.
Alfalfa County court filings

According to the affidavits and petitions on file, the following individuals have been charged. An individual is innocent of any charges listed below until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is a matter of public record and may be obtained by anyone during regular hours at the Alfalfa County Courthouse. The Newsgram will not intentionally alter or delete any of this information. If it appears in the courthouse public records, it will appear in this newspaper.

**Felony Filings**
Levi Le Welch, 37, has been charged with child abuse ($327.75).
Jennifer Lynn Welch, 40, has been charged with child abuse ($327.75).

**Civil Filings**
Clayton Anthony Roberts vs. Cody Tyler Roach: indebtedness.

**State of Oklahoma vs. Waylon Poland: indebtedness ($229.14).**

**Small Claims Filings**
Kristin Lyn Newton vs. Service Oklahoma: small claims ($58).
Andrew Stifter vs. Service Oklahoma: small claims ($58).

**Marriage License Filings**
Jamon Todd Hauder and Rachel Anne Koehn: marriage license with certificate ($5).

**Traffic Citations**
Tomas David Mark has been cited for operating vehicle on which all taxes due to state have not been paid ($249).
Lathan Alan Golden has been cited for operating vehicle on which all taxes due to state have not been paid ($249).
Candis Britney Fashing has been cited for operating vehicle with expired registration ($294).
Antonio Macias has been cited with operating vehicle with expired registration ($249).
Eric Walker Williams has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit ($100).
Ronald Coleman Siegman has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit ($100).
Jeremy Aaron Cunningham has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit ($264).
Kim Raymond Jones has been cited for speeding 16-20 mph over the speed limit ($279).
Jammie Elaine Vaughn has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit ($100).

To Report Someone Littering Call: 1-888-5-LITTER

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Kiowa's community SPOTLIGHT on Buddy Williams

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