

**THE ALVA
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COURIER**

NEWSGRAM

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Alfalfa County commissioners sign off on 2024 jail inspection

By Stacy Sanborn

Garret Johnson, Mike Roach and Nate Ross of the Alfalfa County Board of Commissioners inspected the county jail during their meeting this week and approved its inspection. Before that, the three men took care of the rest of the agenda, approving the usual items, like last week's meeting minutes, maintenance and operation warrants for payment, and blanket purchase orders. They also approved the monthly officer reports and the Court Clerk Records Management and Preservation monthly report.

After they took care of that large mound of paperwork, they signed the revised 2024 Class A officer meeting schedule to correct the time since the commissioner meetings are held an hour earlier now, followed by approving the publishing of 2023 salaries in the newspaper.

The three men declared surplus on a 2020 Vermeer chipper (Inv. no. D3 358-302, Serial no. 1VRY1 1199M1032528) and then signed off on the FY 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). Next was a \$65,650 transfer from the District 1 M&O account 1102-6-4100-2005 to the District 1 Lease Purchase account 1102-6-4100-4130 for funds to pay off lease purchase semi-trucks.

Lastly, the commissioners signed off on a private property access easement and a donation form for the NE¼ of 14-26-11 to haul a concrete slab for a farmer donating the concrete slab to District 1 for rip rap.



New sign in front of the ag shop made by students in the Ag Communication students.

Ag shop update

By Alivia Seaman, Waynoka FFA Reporter

Students have been busy in the Waynoka School ag shop making items with the plasma cutting machine and more. The Ag Communications class

made a sign to go out in front of the ag shop. The students had to present their ideas to Ronnie Nix for his approval before starting on the sign. The sign

See Shop Page 18

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Dates to remember and good memory habits

By Marione Martin



The long-awaited groundbreaking for the swimming pool in Alva is scheduled for next week on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 2 p.m. Temperatures are likely to be chilly so the ceremony will begin indoors at the Alva High School gym located

just across the street. Then the group will move outdoors to the swimming pool location for the ceremonial groundbreaking and photos. The pool will be designated as the Cory Washburn Family Swimming Pool, recognizing the substantial donation made by the family on behalf of Cory who lost his life too soon in a plane crash.

Another upcoming date to remember is the US Postal Service price increase on Jan. 21. Stamps for first-class mail letters will increase from 66 cents to 68 cents each. There's still time to buy the forever stamps now and save. The stamps can still be used to mail letters after the price increase without adding more postage. Postcard postage will also increase by two cents on Jan. 21, but there is no increase in the charge for additional ounces on letters, which are currently 24 cents each.

Some years back, I read an article about a research project comparing the speed at which nursing home residents walked to their longevity. Those who walked faster lived longer. So, I tend to walk at a pretty good clip. Another way I've seen it stated is "If you rest, you rust." Apparently, that also applies to keeping your memory in good shape, according to this article by Bill Murphy Jr.:

10 Simple Habits That Lead to Better Memory

1. Stay extremely busy (especially in retirement).

Writing in the peer-reviewed Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, researchers reviewed two big troves of data on literally millions

of Chinese workers, along with data on their performance on various cognitive tests and memory assessments:

First, they examined a group that retired early, thanks to a government pension program, and second, they examined a similar group that wasn't eligible for the program, and that therefore kept working later in life.

The data was striking. In short, the new pension program led to "led to significant adverse effects on cognitive functioning."

2. Enjoy the right kinds of games, part 1.

Professors in the departments of psychiatry, neurology and medicine at Columbia and Duke universities recruited 107 volunteers with an average age of 71 and asked them to do crossword puzzles or play computer video games over a period of many weeks.

The results, as published in the journal NEJM Evidence, were that over a period of 78 weeks, participants in the crossword puzzle cohort did much better in terms of (lack of) memory loss than the ones in the video game cohort.

3. Enjoy the right kinds of games, part 2.

A group of researchers in Canada set out to determine if detail-oriented hobbies like bird-watching might have a positive association with better memory.

Sure enough, in a test that had to do with classifying birds and then remembering them, they found the ones who were active bird watchers had better-developed memories that enabled them to recall more accurately.

4. Read for pleasure.

Researchers in Illinois partnered with a library to recruit two groups of adults, and divided them into two groups:

Half were loaned iPads with a pre-selected list of books that were considered likely to suck readers in.

Half were loaned iPads with games like word puzzles.

As the study authors summarized: "The results were incontrovertible: in comparison to the puzzle group, the group that read books for eight weeks showed significant improvements to working

memory and episodic memory. In other words, the study demonstrated that regular, engaged reading strengthened older adults' memory skills."

5. Get enough sleep.

You know this, so I'll keep this one short. But, writing in the journal Trends in Neurosciences, authors from Chronobiology and Sleep Institute at the University of Pennsylvania synthesized decades of research on what happens to our brains when we accumulate a sleep debt.

In short, three things for our purposes:

First, when we accumulate a sleep debt, we lose some of the subjective ability to judge how that lack of sleep affects us.

Second, even though we don't realize it, objective tests show that we continue to have "deficits ... in vigilance and episodic memory" even after "2-3 nights of recovery sleep." Key: The deficits persist even if we feel "less tired" after recovery sleep.

Finally, and perhaps most alarmingly, studies suggest that this persistent sleep loss – even when we try to catch up on it – can lead to "heightened susceptibility to neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease ... and Parkinson's disease (PD)."

6. Don't be afraid to take naps.

Writing in the journal Sleep Health, researchers from University College, London, and Uruguay's University of the Republic looked at data from adults aged 40 to 69, "and found a causal link between habitual napping and larger total brain volume," according to an official statement.

The result? After looking at data associated with 378,932 people from the study, they concluded that the habit was associated with less brain shrinkage over time – the equivalent of between 2.6 to 6.5 years of aging.

7. Wear a sleep mask at night.

This was a long study with a simple takeaway. Writing in the monthly peer-reviewed journal Sleep, a research team spanning universities in the U.S.,

See Marione Page 25

Woods County Extension

The Ag Page

January 2024

Winter Feeding Cattle Reminders

Brian Freking

Determine and meet animal requirements

Energy and protein requirements are lowest at weaning and highest at peak lactation in cattle. Provide rations that supply the proper amount of energy and protein according to stage of production. The OSU Cowculator tool is very useful to balance rations based on the different stages of production.

To optimize calving and rebreeding, aim to maintain body condition score in the 5-6 range. Thin cows and heifers require more energy and protein to gain weight so feed them separately, if possible, from the rest of the herd that is being fed for maintenance.

Cold, damp, muddy conditions can increase requirements. A dry winter hair coat provides insulation for cattle, so they are not adversely affected by feels-like temperatures of approximately 18o F. Below this lower critical temperature they require extra energy for maintenance. However, if the hair coat is wet the lower critical temperature can be in the high 40o F range. A thumb rule is to provide 1% increased energy above normal requirements for every degree below the lower critical temperature. Also use bedding to help cows stay dry and more comfortable.

Provide appropriate mineral and vitamin supplements that match the base ration and animal requirements.

Plan your feeding program

Determine quantity and quality of feeds you have available and what if any supplementation is needed for different production stages. A feed analysis provides the quality information and can help determine what feeds to use when.

Have a contingency plan for feeding in muddy conditions, or possibly needing a longer feeding period in spring to rest drought damaged pastures.

If short on normal hay, lower quality roughages alternatives can be utilized with proper supplementation. Intake can be limited by higher neutral detergent fiber (NDF) content of the lower quality forage options.

Consider different delivery methods that minimize waste and allow flexibility in utilizing feeds in rations. High quality or higher energy feeds will need to be limit-fed to avoid overfeeding, and lower quality feeds will need supplementation to avoid underfeeding. If limit feeding, make sure all cows have access to feed.

Consider trade off in labor and equipment costs versus less feed waste and potentially lower cost rations with mixed rations, grinding forages, and the ability to use different feedstuffs that may lower feed cost.

Control your costs

Balance rations for each production stage utilizing available feeds. Don't underfeed, don't overfeed nutrients.

Buy feeds based on the least cost per unit of nutrient needed and have a plan

in place when those northern winds decide to roll in.

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Alva School Board hires custodian, approves FFA travel

By Marione Martin

The Alva Board of Education met Monday with all members present. Among items on the agenda was the resignation of a custodian and hiring of a replacement. The board also set the school calendar for the next school year beginning in August 2024.

Superintendent Tim Argo presented the financial report showing revenue is down \$518,592.01 from this time last year. Gross production income is down \$495,654.24. Motor vehicle tax is down \$8,761.19, and REA tax is down \$32,191.32. School land earnings increased by \$6,355.95, county 4 mil tax collections are up \$11,658.79 compared to this time last year.

State aid has increased by \$310.79 per student in relation to last year. Current year ad valorem collections are at 52 percent of the estimate of needs for the year.

Looking at purchase orders in the general fund, Argo said \$5,571.83 to R & T Diesel was for multiple repairs to various vehicles. The Junior Library Guild was paid \$1,132.52 for high school library books. Argo said each of the school sites will be purchasing books, a requirement of state aid. The school spent \$5,477.80 for high school football helmet reconditioning and another \$5,470 for replacement helmets and shoulder pads. A purchase of \$3,110 from Compass Athletics was for track uniforms. The school spent \$2,500 to

have Matthew Flinton speak on Jan. 3 for professional development on the topic of Trauma Informed Instruction.

From the building fund, \$500 was spent with Chapman-Bush LLC for drain repairs at the indoor practice facility. A purchase order for \$4,000 covered gas leak repairs by Gagnon Plumbing at Lincoln School.

Supt. Argo reported the resignation of Kristina Roach as high school custodian.

He announced that this is board appreciation month, passing out certificates of recognition to board members from the state school board. "I just want to thank you all for your service, not only to our students and staff but to this community," Argo said. "We all know that service is not always easy and especially leadership. So I really appreciate this board's leadership through our strategic plan, through our hiring process and each day supporting our students and our staff, and everything you do for Alva Public Schools."

Longfellow Principal Alysson Tucker gave a presentation on the Resources section of the school's Strategic Plan. "Resources" is basically capital improvements and the maintenance of school sites. She said one goal was setting up an IT ticket system to let custodial staff know about issues, and that goal has been met with all school sites able to access the system. Another goal being met is monthly safety inspections of all school buildings. Patricia Gluth was

designated as head custodian, taking over responsibilities such as ordering supplies for the school system.

Supt. Argo provided the second part of the presentation, outlining current capital improvement projects. He said a third-party inspection of roofs is expected to result in a rate adjustment. In the assessment of settling at Lincoln School it was found that some pipes and drainage have been compromised possibly causing the settling. Argo said further assessment may be done on the HVAC and electrical system at Lincoln after the experience with the gas leak.

The board was provided access to a spreadsheet detailing all the capital improvements in the school system since 2017. "We've really done some neat things, capital improvement wise, for our students and staff with our money, and not putting an additional burden on the taxpayers," said Argo. "So I think that's something for you all to be proud of. All of these things you see schools passing bond issues for, we've been able to do that ourselves."

The school board then took action to employ Janelle Carter as high school custodian.

The 2024-2025 school year calendar was presented to the board. Argo said five teachers, five parents and the administration team met and decided on three options for the calendar. Those options were then sent out to all site staff and transportation for voting. The option presented to the board received the most votes. In making the calendar, the school consulted with Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Northwest Technology Center to align dates. They also coordinated with neighboring schools at Cherokee and Waynoka. Next fall, classes will begin on Aug. 8, and the last day of classes is May 16. The 24-25 school calendar was approved.

The board voted to accept a \$50,000 donation from Alva State Bank. This is the second year they have donated with funds designated for fine arts. Argo said this was "another example of why this is such a great community." He added that "it really does change lives for our kids."

In final action, the board approved

See Alva Page 18



Tim Argo
Superintendent

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GOLDBUG FOOTBALL HALL OF HONOR NOMINATION FORM

The Alva High School Football Hall of Honor exists to recognize and honor Alva High School Football teams, athletes, coaches, and support personnel for their contributions to Alva High School Football.

Nomination Timeline: July 14th is the annual deadline for nominations for that fall's induction ceremony.

Mail Completed Form to: Alva High School, Attn: Athletic Dept., 501 14th St., Alva, OK 73717

For a digital form email: dlfoster@alvaschools.net

Date Submitted: _____	Submitted By: _____
Submitters Contact Info: _____	
Submitters Email: _____	
Name of person you are nominating: _____	
Nominees Contact Info (address, phone and email): _____	
Award Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	
Background Information of Nominee:	
Year Graduated/Retired from Alva High School: _____ or Year of Accomplishment: _____	
Years attended/served Alva high School: _____ to _____	
Sport(s) activities participated in/coached at Alva High School: _____	

Alva High School Athletic Honors/Special Recognition: _____	

Records established at Alva High School: _____	
Post High School Activity:	
College: _____	Years: _____ to _____
Achievements: _____	
College/Professional Athletics (if Applies): _____	

Please attach/include a summary statement for any additional comments and or information that you would like to be considered on behalf of this nominee.

New faces sit at South Barber School Board table Monday

- Superintendent Miller's contract renewed
- Sternberger named as new kindergarten teacher
- Principal Neal approved as weight room supervisor



At the January meeting of the South Barber Board of Education, new members Jarrod Inman and Bret Mott take their seats at the table. Photo by Yvonne Miller

By Yvonne Miller

It's 2024 and the South Barber (SB) Board of Education started the new year with two new board members at their January meeting Monday night. They are Jarrod Inman and Bret Mott.

Following a 20-minute executive session mid-meeting to evaluate the superintendent, the board voted to approve a one-year contract for

Superintendent Dr. Mylo Miller with the amount of his salary to be determined later.

Opening his administrative report, Dr. Miller said January is School Board Appreciation Month and recognized the board members for their years of service: President Mark Pollock, 11 years; Vice President Bryan Quick, 17 years; member Mike Miller, 7 years;

member Emily Lohmann, 4 years; member Karen Watts, 1 year; member Bret Mott, starting first year; member Jarrod Inman, starting first year. All members attended the meeting along with the superintendent and Minutes Clerk Alyssa Gonzales. Grade 7-12 Principal Steve Neal and Elementary Principal Kaynette Scheck attended and gave their reports to the board.

South Barber Board Hiring

Katie Sternberger received board approval as the new kindergarten teacher for 2024-2025. She is a 2007 graduate of South Barber and earned her bachelor's degree at Kansas University. She's working on her master's degree in elementary education through Fort Hays State. This is Sternberger's second year to teach second grade in Overbrook near Topeka and Lawrence. Before that she was a paraprofessional eight years at SB.

Principal Neal was approved as new recreation weight room supervisor. He will receive pay of \$3,500 to finish the school's fiscal year. Miller estimates the role of supervisor to take about 10 hours per week.

Board members discussed the possible appointment of SB Recreation Committee members. New board member Inman also serves on the rec board and helps coach rec sports. The board needs more information, so tabled the issue until next month.

Grading Scale Change?

Last month Principal Neal presented reasons why he supports changing the current grading scale to a new grading: scale 90-100 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; 59 and lower F. Neal explained this eliminates plus or minus. That way if a student made an A- on an assignment, it doesn't stop them from making a 4.0 grade point average. This puts South Barber on a more even playing field with other area schools, which all have the grading scale Neal proposes, when

See Barber Page 24



Mylo Miller

South Barber Superintendent
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NEW - 2 - 80 Acre tracts - A HUNTING PARADISE!

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

NEW - 160 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 5-27-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract has 106 Acres of excellent grassland and 54 Acres of good cropland. Improvements include a 320 sq. ft. metal building with concrete floor and internal plumbing, a shipping container, and four other outbuildings. It has a new 5-wire fence and rural water on a paved road. Excellent hunting. **PRICE: \$430,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 6-27-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract has 127 Acres of good cropland and 33 Acres of good grassland. Has new 5-wire fences, a small pond, and a windmill. Rural water is available. Excellent hunting on a paved road. **PRICE: \$320,000.00**

NEW - 960 Acres, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 17-27-15, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 8-27-15, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 7-27-15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 18-27-15 This tract consists of 960 acres of excellent grassland, all contiguous, with a small pond and a windmill. The tract was planted to w.w. spur grass. It has excellent hunting potential and is watered by five ponds. Fences are good, 4 and 5-wire fences with some new over the past years. **NEW PRICE: \$1,350,000.00**

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

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

NEW - 338 Acres, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the RR right-of-way & SE $\frac{1}{4}$ less a tract, all in Sec 14-28-13, W.I.M. This tract consists of 238 Acres of good cropland and the balance being 40 Acres of good grassland. Borders Hwy 11 at Capron, Okla. **PRICE: \$750,000.00**

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

NEW - 160 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" Excellent grass, heavy tree population, several canyons with large pond. Excellent wildlife habitat. Located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 14-28-13, W.I.M. From Waynoka, Okla., go 7 miles north on Hwy 14 to Ellis Road, then go 2 miles west to property. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 34-26-16, W.I.M. **PRICE: \$300,000.00**

NEW - 222 Acres - 206 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 16 Acres of timber groves. Has excellent hunting potential. 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 - 160 Acres - SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 33-27-14, W.I.M. All minerals are intact and sold with the farm. **PRICE: \$495,000.00**

915 Acres - A Sportsman's dream - Borders Cimarron River in Freedom, 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, W.I.M. & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & SW NW - 27-27-18, Woods Co., Okla. **PRICE: \$1,100,000.00**

NEW - 154 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 114 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 22 Acres of trees, grass, and waterways. There is excellent building potential. Just one mile east of Alva. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

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

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

NEW - 315 Acres of which 208 Acres is excellent cropland, and the balance being 107 Acres of excellent grassland. Improvements include a 1200 sq. ft. home, 32' x 60' shop w/ 16" lean-to, steel corrals, N $\frac{1}{2}$ - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$1,050,000.00**

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

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

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

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

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

440 Acres - Excellent Cropland. W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10-29-8W Kingman County, Kansas. **PRICE: \$440,000.00**

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Senate Review

New bill would create hemp task force

By Senator Roland Pederson



The countdown is on as we get ready for session. More than 350 Senate bills have been filed with more to come. Our appropriations subcommittees are meeting with dozens of state agencies in the next two weeks to review their budget requests. Schedules for these meetings are available on the Senate website, and they'll be broadcast live online as well if you'd like to tune in.

So far, I've filed four bills, including one that would make assaulting a municipal, county, or state official on the job a misdemeanor. Violators would be subject to up to one year in prison and/or a maximum fine of \$1,000. My bill would also create a felony for battery or assault and battery against such officials. Those found guilty would face up to five years imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$5,000.

Another of my bills focuses on one of our state's youngest industries, hemp. In 2018, the Legislature passed a pilot program allowing universities

or farmers contracting with universities to cultivate certified hemp crops for research and development for industrial uses. Last fall, I held a study to see where we stand in this industry, and it became apparent that we need to further examine the impact that hemp production and processing is having on our state and figure out how we can better support this young industry. We currently have 21 licensed hemp growers and 22 licensed hemp processors in the state.

I've filed legislation to create the Oklahoma Industrial Hemp Task Force. They'd submit a report within the next two years to leaders providing an overview of laws and regulations governing the production of this product, along with recommendations for the amount of THC allowed in it, an updated definition, and ways to improve outreach and assistance for farmers, agricultural cooperatives, farm organizations, tribal governments, and other related entities. We must do all we can to support this industry, which estimates show could easily create over \$1 billion annually for our economy. It's the world's strongest natural fiber with more than 50,000 uses including rope, clothes, food, paper, textiles, plastics, insulation and biofuel.

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I'm also working on legislation to provide free counseling services to foster parents and their biological children. Providers would be compensated by the Department of Human Services. Being a foster family can be extremely taxing both mentally and emotionally. For the safety and well-being of everyone involved, it's important that we provide free counseling to help families navigate their new life. Foster children already receive these free services and we need to also make sure the rest of the family has this opportunity.

I'll keep you updated as I file more legislation in the coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns on legislative matters.

You can reach my office at 405-521-5630 or Roland.Pederson@oksenate.gov.

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Waynoka school board extends Superintendent Cline's contract

By Kathleen Lourde

In a quick regular meeting, the Waynoka school board voted to extend Principal Cline's contract by three years, with the addition of the stipend given to the teachers and a 1.5 percent raise.

They also heard reports from the principals about students' activities and handled a little routine business.

Student Activities and Achievements

In the elementary school, principal Patricia Burrow reported that the elementary's Dec. 15 Christmas program, "The Incredible Reindeer," led by Mrs. Hope, was an "exceptional program, as always." Also excellent, she said, was the fifth through 12th grade band and choir concert on Dec. 18, led by Mrs. Hill. The concert "showed how much our band program has grown and improved," Burrow said.

"Our first reading marathon went very well," Burrow said. "Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Webb orchestrated a fun and action-packed morning of reading activities involving parents, students, community members and Santa and Mrs. Claus. We all enjoyed it."

On Dec. 19 was the second nine-weeks' reading incentive. Eighty-four students in first through sixth grades reached their individualized reading goals and earned a morning of STEM activity stations, led by teachers, and an afternoon of watching "Paddington"

and enjoying hot chocolate and popcorn. "Students and teachers worked extremely hard this first semester and gains can be seen across the board," Burrow said.

On the last day of the semester, first through sixth grades competed in a double-elimination dodgeball tournament. After the championship, half of the elementary challenged their teachers, coaches and principal with the other half playing the same adults immediately following. "Great sportsmanship and support was shown," said Burrow, "even when the adults won! Christmas parties were held in the classrooms and the cafeteria that day as well. Many parents came and enjoyed the fun chaos."

Students of the Week for December were Paisley Reed, Jack Nickelson, Sofia Solares, Tommy Kennedy, Josi Gaskill and Jack Wilson. Students of the Week for the past week were Brady Jones and Whitney Haynes.

The afterschool program resumed Jan. 8.

The 4-H and FFA Booster Club will hold their annual trophy auction Jan. 15 in the multipurpose building at 6:30 p.m. "This helps fund students' projects for the local show, to be held at the school farm Feb. 3 at 10:30 a.m." said Junior High and High School Principal Ronnie Nix.

Sports

The elementary held its first

basketball game of the new year, playing at Okeene Tuesday. After this week, the elementary school has three games left in the season. They'll play Okeene again, FGFS and Timberlake, all at home.

Junior high and high school basketball teams kicked off the spring semester playing in the Sharon-Mutual tournament yesterday, Thursday and Saturday. Last week, the high school teams played in the Medford tournament, where both played in the consolation round Saturday. The boys' team won the consolation championship.

Principal Nix reported that Coach Kennedy's esports team finished third overall in the state in the Halo Division. They also competed in the fall Madden tournament, where they were the state runner up. The team resumes competition at the end of this month.

Finances

Superintendent Cline went over the school's finances. In the general fund, expenditures were up and revenue was down \$60,000 on the month. Overall, on the year, the school has under-collected \$40,000 on ad valorem, but Cline said he wasn't too concerned about it yet.

"Gross production is a big item this year," Cline said. "So far, we're down \$103,000 on the year," he said, but some monies have not yet been received.

The building fund had no expenditures with revenue up \$40,000 this month, and up \$164,000 on the year.

Child nutrition expenditures were up this month and revenue was up slightly as well; however, overall it's in the negative. "But that's kind of what we're used to without federal money," Cline said.

The day care is where Cline expected it to be. Expenditures are up and revenue is also up on the year, but all in all "we are down there as well (by) \$32,000."

The bond projects are delayed by about a month, due to supply chain delays and bad weather.

School Board Appreciation Month January is School Board Appreciation Month, and the principals and superintendent expressed thanks to the board.

The Waynoka Superintendent News is a monthly presentation of



Scott Cline
Waynoka Superintendent



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1,894	Morton Co, KS	Dryland Farm Ground-CRP-Homestead	\$1,800,000	NEW
980	Blaine Co, OK	Income Producing Quarry w/Mining Lease	\$3,430,000	new price
525	Wayne Co, MO	135/ac Private Lake - Hardwood Timber	\$2,895,000	new price
780	Texas Co, OK	Grassland, Grazing, Hunting	\$741,000	new price
242	Comanche Co, KS	Agricultural, Grassland, Hunting	\$387,200	
412	Barber Co, KS	Hunting, Agricultural, Grazing	\$1,075,000	
138	Kingfisher Co, OK	Cropland, Hunting, Grassland	\$415,000	new price
39	McCurtain Co, OK	Platted Residential Dev near Golf Course	\$1,250,000	
504	McCurtain Co, OK	Land + Home, Timber, Wildlife	\$2,315,600	
Lots	McCurtain Co, OK	Convenience Store - Recently Built	\$3,675,000	Pending
880	Kiowa Co, KS	Agricultural, Hunting, Grass Land	\$1,760,000	Pending
304	Woods Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Multiple Ponds	\$365,000	new price
638	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Spring Fed Pond	\$1,084,600	new price
114	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Grassland	\$245,000	
24.67	Woods Co, OK	Custom Home, Pond, Grassland, Hunting	\$775,000	
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11,242	McIntosh Co, OK	GILLESPIE RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$23,600,000	SOLD
290	WOODS CO, OK	Little Sahara State Park 14 Tracts	AUCTION	SOLD
780	Alfalfa Co, OK	6 Tracts - CLASS 1 SOILS - Cropland	AUCTION	SOLD
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159	Stafford Co, KS	Cropland w/ Pond, Hunting with House	\$645,000	SOLD
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11,391	McIntosh Co, OK	FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$19,900,000	SOLD
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Cherokee school board hears about new initiatives, finances

By Kathleen Lourde

The Cherokee school board met Monday evening for its regular meeting, and the first agenda item was recognizing the board for School Board Appreciation Month.

"We don't have anything fancy planned for you," Superintendent Bryce Schanbacher told the board, "but we just wanted to take a few minutes to thank each of you for your commitment and dedication to our school." He said they were an important part of making Cherokee's schools so good, with great facilities, top-notch teachers and wonderful students.

New Initiatives at Elementary Bear Fruit

Elementary Principal Keela Patterson reported on some new – or renewed – initiatives at the elementary school.

On Dec. 14 was the elementary's reading incentive party. "We started a new thing this year: however many AR points they have, that's how many Chief Bucks they receive. I think it's motivating, because they get to shop at the school store," said Patterson. the school's Christmas program was also Dec. 14.

Everyone returned to school on Jan. 2. "We had a really great first day," said Patterson, adding that they started the calendar year with three new students.

On Jan 3, the elementary held classroom spelling bees. That's something the school had done long ago, and it was resurrected this year, Patterson

said. "The elementary had two students from each classroom make it to finals. The big final spelling bee was Tuesday (yesterday). The junior high also took part in the spelling bee, starting a half hour later.

"We are working to improve attendance," Patterson said. "Starting this semester, we're doing a raffle on Fridays," and the names of students with perfect attendance are put into the hat.

Junior High, High School Achievements

Junior High and High School Principal Lane Pruett named the November students of the month: Gavin Guffy and Talyn Allison from the high school, and Wyatt Calwonsen and Harper Laramore from the junior high.

Cherokee FFA was selected to be part of the FAA State Officer Goodwill Tour on Jan. 23. Four state FFA officers will be in Cherokee for lunch as well as a short program with local FFA members, Pruett said.

Thirteen FFA and 4-H members completed their Youth for Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training and certification this past week.

Pruett reminded everyone that there will be no school Friday, Jan. 19, for teacher in-service.

Sports

This past weekend, the Lady Chiefs won third at the 31st Annual Cherokee Invitational Basketball Tournament. Carson Schanbacher and Naomi Heim were selected to the all-tournament team.

At the Canton Tournament just before Christmas, Carson Schanbacher was selected to that all-tournament team as well.

"Thanks to AEC for sponsoring the tournament again this year," said Pruett. "I would also like to thank everyone who helped put it on. It takes a lot of volunteers and a lot of work."

Homecoming is this Friday; coronation will be about 6 p.m.

The Cherokee Strip Basketball Tournament is Jan. 18-20. This year it will once again be played at Pioneer High School.

Cumbie Hired at Middle School

After an executive session to discuss the employment of non-certified personnel, pending a background check, the board convened in open session and voted to approve employing Heather Cumbie as a middle school paraprofessional.

2024-25 School Calendar Approved

The board then took up next year's school calendar. The calendar devised by the administration contains no changes, but does have some adjustments, Schanbacher said. So, for example, Christmas Break is still two weeks long, but it begins a little later and students return a little later "just because of the way the days fall," he said.

"Our tournament would be that next week," he added.

The new calendar gives teachers the Monday after break for professional development. "That leaves just a three-day week," Schanbacher said. "We did that this year, and it worked out pretty good. Especially for the younger kids, it can be hard to get back in the swing of things.

"We're still sticking with Fridays off in the spring.

School starts Aug. 8, and the last day is May 15. Fall break will run from Thursday through the following Monday. "The tech school does that as well, and some other schools around here," Schanbacher said. "Everybody seemed to like that."

The board approved next year's school calendar.

Superintendent Talks Finances

See Cherokee Page 18



BRYCE SCHANBACHER
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From Page 6 Alva

two out-of-state travel requests for Alva FFA. Students will attend a tractor tech contest on Jan. 19-20 in Plainview, Texas, and a livestock judging contest on April 8 in Hutchinson, Kansas.

From Page 16 Cherokee

Before getting into the weeds of the financial reports, Schanbacher brought up a new benefit he hopes to offer employees: AirEvac services.

A representative of AirEvac will be at the school on Jan. 17 to talk with staff about the service. The school will partner with AirEvac to enable staff to get the service at a discounted rate, paid through payroll deduction. It would cover the employee and their family.

In addition, "all of our students at our activities, or even going to an activity, would be covered," Schanbacher said. "I think it would be a good thing to offer."

He went on to address the financial reports.

In the general fund, the school had a couple larger expenditures. One was the crisis communication system, costing about \$90,000. That had already been approved, and the funding came from the state. The school will receive about \$92,000 this year, next year and the year after. The company contracted with is expected to get to work as soon as school is out.

The second large item was \$34,600, which was spent on flood cleanup. Fortunately, the school's deductible is

See **Cherokee** Page 24



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From Page 2 Shop



Ag Mechanics students make new trophies for local stock shows.

turned out great and is now located in front of the ag room door at the school. The students are still planning to do some finishing touches.

Ag Mechanics students have also been busy making trophies for our local

stock show for the Breed Champion and Reserve Champions and have been updating the show ring panels for the show as well. There will also be pieces made by the ag shop students for the silent auction part of the trophy auction.

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A piece of history comes to life with stories and memories



This wagon was owned by the late Jim and Bev Molz. They rode in it for Kiowa's parade during the Centennial reenactment of the Great Land Run of 1893. The Molz family recently donated the piece of history to the Kiowa Historical Society Museum. Photo by Yvonne Miller

By Yvonne Miller

Think back to September 1993 when this entire area was reenacting the Great Land Run of 1893. The excitement in the air was electrifying – people were so creative with period costumes, ideas for authentic celebrations and much more. All the little towns on the Oklahoma/Kansas border were having reenactments of what was also known as the Cherokee Strip Land Run. The event that occurred Sept. 16, 1893, marked the opening to

settlement of the Cherokee Outlet in Oklahoma Territory's fourth and largest land run. It was part of what would later become the state of Oklahoma in 1907.

Kiowa, Kansas, was one of the little border towns that had big doings. One Kiowa woman remembers riding in a wagon for the reenactment. She is Bev Miller, who said, "It was the wildest, the most hysterical time. It was so funny. The mules were pulling the wagon so fast. We were bumping around everywhere

in that wagon. We jumped out to stake our claim and then we had to defend it – someone was trying to take it from us. We had a blast doing it. You think of all your friends and the fun we had together. Bev Molz was a dear woman. Time passes too fast."

That wagon was owned by her buddy Bev Molz and her husband Jim. The two women taught for decades at the Kiowa turned South Barber Elementary School.

Jim and Bev's son Ron recently donated that wagon to Kiowa's Historical Society Museum on behalf of the Molz family. Ron said, "I saw the wagon sitting there in the shed and thought it should be in the museum." The South Barber FFA with Chapter Advisor Tommy Hutson volunteered to clean up the wagon.

Ron called Historical Society Board member Stan Michel and now the tall wooden covered wagon sits at the entrance of the museum. Ron said his dad bought the wagon in the 1980s from a man at Attica named Silcott. The wagon had been hanging in a barn for years and not used much. Unfortunately, none of the Molz family knows any of the history on the wagon before that.

The Molz family recommended contacting Dennis Ediger of Hardtner who worked for Jim many years. Ediger said he started working for Jim in 1989 and he already had the wagon. Dennis remembers that he, Terry and Jim went to an Amish community near Hutchison and they made arch bows that hold up the canvas.

Ediger remembers the Land Run reenactment well. Jim rode in the front of the wagon with Terry Coulter who owned the two mules they used to pull it. Ediger rode a horse alongside the wagon "in case those mules acted up!"

He remembers Bev and Bev riding in the back. "Those two women didn't even let the wagon get stopped before they jumped out to stake their claim!"

"Things got wild and western at that deal!" Ediger said. He remembered the huge, kind of surprise wildly popular Martina McBride concert at the reenactment site directly northeast of the high school. Of national acclaim and beyond, McBride is from just up the road a few miles in Sharon, Kansas.

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January 10-16, 2024

Republican voters continue to hold majority in Woods County

By Marione Martin

Woods County has 4,381 active voters according to a report from the County Election Board dated Dec. 31, 2023. The county has 581 inactive voters for a total of 4,962 registered voters. During the year the county had 28 new voters registered. Fourteen registrations were cancelled with seven moving out of jurisdiction and seven by death.

Voter registration transactions included one affiliation change, ten address changes and five name changes.

In active registrations, Republicans outnumber other affiliations by a large margin. There are 3,140 registered Republicans, 715 Democrats, 492 Independents and 34 Libertarians among active voters. Republicans comprise 71.7

percent of active voters with Democrats at 16.3 percent. Independents are 11.2 percent of active registered voters while Libertarians are less than one percent.

The Oklahoma Election Board reports as of Dec. 31, 2023, there were 2,299,289 registered voters in the state with 1,887,232 listed as active. During the year, 10,729 new voter registrations were received in the state.

At the end of December, Oklahoma had 1,029,038 active registered Republican voters or 54.5 percent. Democrats make up 27.5 percent of active voters in the state with 518,800 registered. With 322,728 voters, Independents are 17.1 percent of the total, and Libertarians are 0.88 percent with 16,666 active voters registered.

Election Dates

The next election date in the state is Tuesday, Feb. 13. Board of education races will be on the ballots; however, Alfalfa and Woods counties do not have any board of education races. City of Alva voters will be voting on a 25-year Oklahoma Natural Gas franchise on Feb. 13. The franchise is a state requirement, but it will not carry any financial cost to citizens.

The next election date is March 5 for the presidential preferential primary election. The deadline for voter registration to be eligible to vote in that election is Feb. 9 according to information from the state election board website.

Woods County Commissioners elect officers

By Marione Martin

The Woods County Commissioners elected new officers for the year during their meeting on Monday. Randy McMurphy will serve as chairman, and David Hamil will be vice chairman. Also present for the meeting were Commissioner John Smiley and County Clerk Shelley Reed.

The commissioners approved the following monthly reports:

Assessor Collections	\$754.50
County Clerk Office Collections	\$13,708.50
Court Clerk Office Balance	\$26,977.52
Court Clerk RM & P Balance	\$15,604.02
Election Board Balance	\$5,072.82
Health Dept. Collections	\$0.00
Sheriff's Office Collections	

\$1,523.65

Board of Prisoners Expenses
\$4,985.68

Treasurer's Office Balance
\$16,228.26

An ODOT (Oklahoma Department of Transportation) claim form for a District 1 bridge project was approved. The \$6,508.56 is assigned to Circuit Engineering District 8 for right of way agreements. Hamil said payment will be made by ODOT.

The annual Election Board registration report was acknowledged.

Jennifer Schafer brought the six-month re-bids for cover materials to the meeting. There were four bids that the commissioners examined after they were opened. They chose the best bids for chips and for gyp aggregate. These were not the lowest bids for the materials,

but when mileage and drive time were figured in, these were the lowest cost to the county.

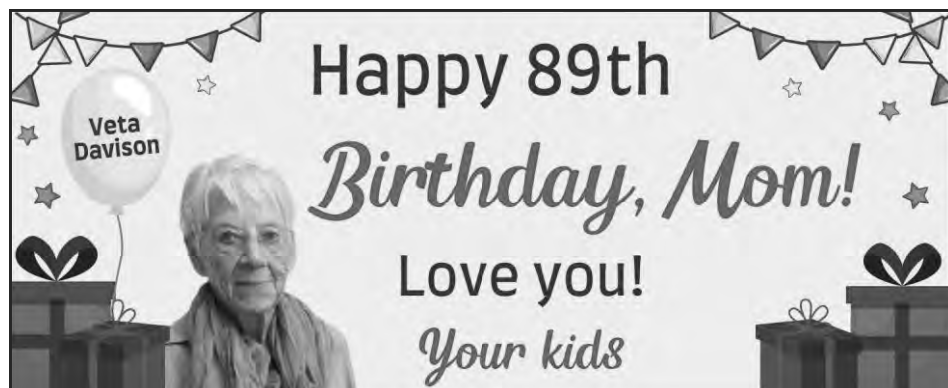
A long list of items from the Sheriff's Office that were declared surplus in November 2022 was presented to the commissioners to be approved for junking. The items included a television, computers, monitors, an alarm system, radios, security system items, an electronic finger printer, and body armor tac vests. Although the items were listed together for one vote, the commissioners had to sign a separate paper for each item.

Under new business, McMurphy said the C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Energy) program with Nancy Graham will probably be on the next meeting agenda Jan. 22 for a VAP application.

Smiley asked if the City of Waynoka needed to go out for bids for the city-owned senior citizen center. McMurphy said if it involves ARPA funds, it will need to be bid. He said either the city or the county could handle the bidding process.

The commissioners also approved minutes of the last meeting, warrants, claims and blanket purchase orders.

A video of the meeting may be viewed at www.AlvaReviewCourier.com.





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Saturday, January 13th vs
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From Page 18

Cherokee

\$5,000, and insurance picked up the rest of that cost.

Also, the gym floor was cleaned and revarnished for \$2,695.

Schanbacher had one more financial item to discuss: the school's allocation from the state is down \$46,000. "That's due to the calculations they use when they adjust our valuations," he said. "Last year and at the start of this year, the number that was used was a little over \$24 million. But that had a tax protest that's now been settled – I believe it was the saltwater disposal wells. When that rolled off, even though we still have a tax protest going on, that money in escrow has been settled. It caused our adjusted valuation to go back up to approximately 28 million. Also, we graduated a big class last year, and this year we just don't have as many students. So we're getting \$46,000 less by the end of the year than originally allocated to us by the state," Schanbacher said.

"It's not the sky falling or the end of the world, but it is something we'll keep an eye on," he said.

Lastly, Schanbacher expressed pleasure at the success of initial efforts to save money through energy efficiency.

"We asked teachers at start of year to turn computers off on weekends, turn off lights when they're not being used. We replaced many lightbulbs with energy efficient LED lights." When comparing energy costs to the same period last year, those efforts have saved the school \$4,400. "It's not huge, but it's a step in the right direction. The teachers and students took that seriously" and saved the school that money, he said.

Other Board Business

The board approved the consent agenda, consisting of minutes of past meetings; General Fund encumbrances (186-205), purchase orders and warrants; Building Fund encumbrances (18), purchase orders and warrants; the treasurer's and activity fund reports; fundraisers and resignations.

FCCLA requested several fundraisers: Chuck a Duck (in which a bucket is put in the middle of the gym floor and rubber duckies are sold for people to try to throw into the bucket), Egg My Yard (which involves plastic,

See Cherokee Page 28

From Page 8

Barber

competing for scholarships and more.

At the meeting Principal Scheck asked what she thinks of having the new grading scale at the elementary. "It's different for the elementary. I want to do some research."

The board agreed to table the item again until Neal and Scheck have time to discuss the subject and decide if the new grading system would be beneficial or not at the elementary also.

Irrigation System for Football Field?

The superintendent and several other board members said something must be done about the football field. They've looked into an irrigation system. Installing sod would be about as costly, he said. The school received a bid for an irrigation system for about \$65,000. That includes \$28,000 for irrigation, \$27,000 for field renovation and other. This purchase would be part of capital improvements. The board tabled the item as they seek at least two more bids.

The board approved waiving the fee and allowing the 4-H Club to use the Jr/High School Building Feb. 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Payment of total monthly expenditures for \$424,180 received board approval.

In addition to the superintendent evaluation executive session, the board spent just over 30 minutes in executive sessions to discuss non-elected personnel.

SB Superintendent and Principals Report

On Curriculum, Attendance

"Our goal is to be a Blue Ribbon School," Miller told the board. This is a program to enhance students' math/reading/English testing skills. Miller said schools are listed from 1-285. The top five percent get Blue Ribbon status. It's an application process in which the governor is involved through the U.S. Department of Education.

Miller listed some needed capital improvements such as a pre-K bus. He said the elementary playground could benefit from synthetic turf that would eliminate sand and rocks.

"I'm looking forward to a great second semester," Miller said. Students were supposed to report back to school Tuesday to start the second semester, however near blizzard conditions Monday night and early Tuesday morning caused school to be canceled Tuesday.

Principal Scheck told about a pilot

program they are implementing at the elementary school "to improve rigor over the next few years." The kindergarten and second grade classes are doing "Super Kids," and first graders are doing the "iReady" program. Scheck said those programs, English Language Arts (ELA curriculums), are expensive "over \$4,000" but well worth it. The board approved paying for those programs at a previous meeting.

Scheck explained these (ELA) curriculums are aligned to the "Science of Reading." She and teachers will decide in May which program was most effective and adopt that program for their reading curriculum. Next year they'll do the same for grades 3-6.

"We are seeking reading curriculum that aligns with the Science of Reading to ensure our teachers and students are provided the best opportunities for success. Reading skills are vital to every child's future!"

Principal Scheck said they've completed the 5-year plan for professional development. Neal complimented Scheck for doing such an "outstanding" job.

Scheck invites parents and any interested members of the public to a workshop to explain the AVID process that is helping students and teachers. The workshop will be held Jan. 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance is an issue at all levels. Scheck said the elementary attendance "is considerably better" after a friendly class competition. Scheck complimented Mrs. Trear's third grade class that had an attendance of 95.83 percent for the second quarter. These winners get to select the theme of their party, like popcorn or nachos.

Principal Neal's report also included ways to solve attendance issues. Connecting with parents sometimes has no response, but he keeps trying. "When a student accumulates any combination of four incidental/unexcused absences during the semester, the parents/legal guardians will be notified by letter. When a student accumulates six incidental/unexcused absences in a class, during the semester, the parents/legal guardians will be notified by letter of loss of credit due to violation of the attendance policy."

Neal said forensics kicks off this month beginning Saturday, Jan. 20, at Clearwater. The ASVAB assessment will be given to the junior class Jan. 31.

From Page 4 **Marione**

the U.K., and Italy studied 122 human subjects. They determined that those who wore sleep masks at night had better episodic memory and alertness.

8. Improve your lighting.

This one was simple, too. Researchers at Michigan State University studied whether lab rats' memories were affected by the quality of light around them – specifically, bright lights like a sunny day, or dimmer, fluorescent lights like in a stereotypical office.

You can probably guess the results: rats in dim lights had about

30 percent less brainpower and were more likely to “perfor[m] poorly on a spatial task they had trained on previously.”

9. Use your phone.

We all probably do this, but I was surprised to see that researchers were creative enough to find a way to study it. In short, study participants were asked to use an app to record 24-second videos of everyday events, and then watch them in a specific way over the next few weeks.

Writing in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, they said they determined that those who

recorded and watched the videos had a 50 percent better memory performance when asked to recall events six months earlier.

10. Walk backward.

I'd love to meet the scientist who came up with the theory on this one, but in short, researchers in London tested whether people could trigger memories by walking backward. Sure enough, it worked – at least often enough to be published in the journal Cognition.

“We have named this a ‘mnemonic time-travel effect,’” said one of the lead researchers.

SB Chieftain and Lady Chieftain basketball update

By Yvonne Miller

The South Barber Chieftains and the Lady Chieftains basketball seasons are heating up. Their games for Tuesday night were canceled due to the blizzard-like weather moving in to the area. School was canceled for Tuesday as well.

Chieftain Coach Shawn Hooker is assisted by Matt Cantrell. Coach Hooker said his Chieftains are 5-3 on the season. He said, “At this point in the season, I am very pleased with the progress we have made. These kids come to practice every day and put in the work. As for the second half of the season, our goal is continued improvement and setting a solid foundation for the years to come.”

Coach Hooker gave names of his “stat leaders,” which follow:

Points Per Game – Lukas Dunham, 15; Briggs Jewell 9.1

Rebounds Per Game – Briggs Jewell 5.9; Oakley Duvall 4.9; Bryson Rathgeber 4.6

Assists Per Game – Briggs Jewell 4; Xander Myers 3.5

Steals Per Game – Lukas Dunham 2.1; Bryson Rathgeber 1.5; Xander Myers 1.4

Lady Chieftains

The Lady Chieftains head coach is Savanah Coggins, who is assisted by her mother, Shana Coggins. Commenting about her team, Savanah said, “This year we are working on being more aggressive, building some confidence and learning about the game itself. We only have 11 on the team so everyone contributes to the team. I look forward

to a great season. We are 3-5 on the preseason.”

Coach Coggins listed some of her team members with the top stats:

Autumn Drake – a senior who averages 12.5 points, 4.8 rebounds, 0.8 assists

Kenslea Schupbach – a freshman who averages 4.0 points, 3.0 rebounds, 3.0 assists

Reignie Coggins – a freshman who averages 4.0 points, 5.8 rebounds, 3.3 assists

Lily Schurter – a sophomore who averages 7.8 points, 7.5 rebounds, 1.0 assists

Jessica Jahay – a senior who averages 8.5 points, 6.3 rebounds

Arrington Allen – a senior who averages 5.0 rebounds, 1.3 assists



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Obituary

LENORA FAY ENTERLINE

Lenora Fay Enterline, age 84, was born on January 16, 1939, at home in Waldren, Oklahoma, to Earnest Walborn and Lillian Harmon Walborn and passed from this life on January 2, 2024, at her home in Nash, Oklahoma. Lenora has lived in the Nash area for over 60 years.

On June 26, 1959, she married Leon Enterline. To this union two children were born: Marcia and Mashell.

Lenora worked as a waitress in Jet and Nash for many years as well as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell but her main devotion was as a loving farm wife helping any way she could. Her favorite hobbies included

quilting, embroidery and, in more recent years, making and painting ceramics. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy and she loved to spend time with them as well as support them and attend their many activities. In her younger years she was a member of the CWF and the Gallop'n' Gals.

She was a member of the Christian Church in Nash, never missing a Sunday or Wednesday service as church and her faith were very important to her. She never had a bad thing to say about anybody, always seeing the good in people. It was a rule of hers to never go to bed angry at anybody.

Lenora is preceded in death by her parents, Earnest and Lillian Walborn; her brother, Leland Walborn; and her twin sister, Leona Polson.

Lenora is survived by her husband, Leon; her daughters, Marcia Thomas and

Mashell Wiens and her husband, Tony; grandchildren Leasha and Jeff Aebi, Heath and Chelsea Thomas, Anthony Wiens, Kylee and Cody Taylor; great-grandchildren Maddux and Madyson Aebi, Henzley, Bodey, Lenora and Hudson Thomas, and Michael Taylor; brother John Walborn; sisters Betty Blackburn, Mary Hess and Florence Williams; brother-in-law Richard Polson; sister-in-law Ellen Walborn.

Graveside service for Lenora were held Friday, January 5, 2024, at 11 a.m. at New Home Cemetery outside of Nash. Arrangements are by Lanman Funeral Home, Inc. of Helena. Online condolences may be made at www.lanmanmemorials.com.

Memorials may be given to Nash Christian Church through the funeral home. Please make checks out to the church.

From Page 12 Waynoka

"Thank you, guys, for everything you do," said Cline. "You don't get a lot of recognition; you get a lot of the complaints. But we appreciate the improvements you've brought to this school over the past ten years."

Other Board Business

The board approved the 2023-24 Textbook Adoption Committee and

fundraisers requested by FCCLA, the library and the fifth- through 12th-grade music program.

After an executive session to discuss Superintendent Cline's evaluation and employment, the board also approved extending Cline's contract for three years, giving him the stipend the school

gives its teachers, and giving him a raise of 1.5 percent.

The board also approved the consent agenda, consisting of minutes of previous meetings; reports on the general, building, activity, and bond funds; encumbrances for the general, building and bond funds; and

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From Page 24

Cherokee

not real, Easter eggs), Eileen's Cookie Sales, and Crush Bags (which are sold near Valentine's Day).

There was one resignation: Megan Roberts, a paraprofessional. She has taken another job elsewhere.

The board also approved the 1080 method for the 2024-2025 school year calendar, which has extra days built in for bad weather.

The board also considered whether to change the District Student Transfer Capacity Numbers.

"Currently, almost all grades are at capacity," said Superintendent Schanbacher. "We do have one spot available in pre-K and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10. We have two spots open in fourth grade, and the remaining grades are at capacity or over by one or two. So, I recommend leaving capacity numbers where they are. We'll review them again later this spring." The board approved keeping the numbers the same.

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With Trump present in court, judges express skepticism of claims that he's immune from prosecution

By Eric Tucker, Alanna Durkin Richer and Lindsay Whitehurst

WASHINGTON (AP) — With Donald Trump listening intently in the courtroom, federal appeals court judges in Washington expressed deep skepticism Tuesday that the former president was immune from prosecution on charges that he plotted to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

The panel of three judges, two of whom were appointed by President Joe Biden, also questioned whether they had jurisdiction to consider the appeal at this point in the case, raising the prospect that Trump's appeal could be dismissed.

During lengthy arguments, the judges repeatedly pressed Trump's lawyer to defend claims that Trump was shielded from criminal charges for acts that he says fell within his official duties as president. That argument was rejected last month by the lower-court judge overseeing the case against Trump, and the appeals judges suggested through their questions that they, too, were dubious that the Founding Fathers envisioned absolute immunity for presidents after they leave office.

"I think it's paradoxical to say that his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed allows him to violate criminal law," said Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson, an appointee of former President George H.W. Bush.

The outcome could carry enormous ramifications both for the landmark criminal case against Trump and for the broader, and legally untested, question of whether an ex-president can be prosecuted for actions taken in the White House. It will also likely set the stage for further appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court, which last month declined a request to weigh in but could still get involved later.

A swift decision is crucial for special counsel Jack Smith and his team, who are eager to get the case — now paused pending the appeal — to trial before the November election. But Trump's lawyers, in addition to seeking to get the case dismissed, are hoping to benefit

from a protracted appeals process that could delay the trial well past its scheduled March 4 start date, including until potentially after the election.

Underscoring the importance to both sides, Trump, the 2024 Republican presidential primary front-runner, attended Tuesday's arguments even though the Iowa caucuses are just one week away and despite the fact that there's no requirement that defendants appear in person for such proceedings. Making his first court appearance in Washington since his arraignment in August, Trump sat at the defense table, watching closely and occasionally taking notes and speaking with his lawyers.

His appearance and his comments afterward underscored his broader effort to portray himself as the victim of a justice system he claims is politicized. Though there's no evidence Biden has had any influence on the case, Trump's argument could resonate with Republican voters in Iowa as they prepare to launch the presidential nomination process.

After the hearing, Trump spoke to reporters at The Waldorf-Astoria hotel, which used to be the Trump International Hotel, calling Tuesday "a very momentous day." He insisted he did nothing wrong and claimed he was being prosecuted for political reasons.

"A president has to have immunity," he said.

Former presidents enjoy broad immunity from lawsuits for actions taken as part of their official White House duties. But because no former president before Trump has ever been indicted, courts have never before addressed whether that protection extends to criminal prosecution.

Trump's lawyers insist that it does, arguing that courts have no authority to scrutinize a president's official acts and that the prosecution of their client represents a dramatic departure from more than two centuries of American history that would open the door to future politically motivated cases.

See Trump Page 29

From Page 28 Trump

“To authorize the prosecution of a president for official acts would open a Pandora’s box from which this nation may never recover,” said D. John Sauer, a lawyer for Trump, asserting that, under the government’s theory, presidents could be prosecuted for giving Congress “false information” to enter war or for authorizing drone strikes targeting U.S. citizens abroad.

He later added: “If a president has to look over his shoulder or her shoulder every time he or she has to make a controversial decision and wonder if ‘after I leave office, am I going to jail for this when my political opponents take power?’ that inevitably dampens the ability of the president.”

But the judges were skeptical about those arguments. Judges Henderson and Florence Pan noted the lawyer who represented Trump during his impeachment trial suggested that he could later face criminal prosecution, telling senators at the time: “We have a judicial process in this country. We have an investigative process in this country to which no former office holder is immune.”

“It seems that many senators relied on that in voting to acquit” Trump, Pan told Sauer.

Judge J. Michelle Childs also questioned why former President

Richard Nixon would need to be granted a pardon in 1974 after the Watergate scandal if former presidents enjoy immunity from prosecution. Sauer replied that in Nixon’s case, the conduct did not involve the same kind of “official acts” Trump’s lawyers argue form the basis of his indictment.

Aside from the merits of the arguments, the judges jumped right into questioning Trump’s lawyer over whether the court has jurisdiction to hear the appeal at this time. Sauer said presidential immunity is clearly a claim that is meant to be reviewed before trial. Smith’s team also said that it wants the court to decide the appeal now.

Smith’s team maintains that presidents are not entitled to absolute immunity and that, in any event, the acts Trump is alleged in the indictment to have taken — including scheming to enlist fake electors in battleground states won by Biden and pressing his vice president, Mike Pence, to reject the counting of electoral votes on Jan. 6, 2021 — fall far outside a president’s official job duties.

“The president has a unique constitutional role but he is not above the law. Separation of powers principles, constitutional text, history, precedent and immunity doctrines all point to the conclusion that a former president enjoys no immunity from prosecution,” prosecutor James Pearce said, adding that a case in which a former president is alleged to have sought to overturn an election “is not the place to recognize some novel form of immunity.”

When Judge Henderson asked how the court could write its opinion in a

way that wouldn’t open the “floodgates” of investigations against ex-presidents, prosecutor James Pearce said he did not anticipate “a sea change of vindictive tit-for-tat prosecutions in the future.” He called the allegations against Trump fundamentally unprecedented.

“Never before has there been allegations that a sitting president has, with private individuals and using the levers of power, sought to fundamentally subvert the democratic republic and the electoral system,” he said. “And frankly, if that kind of fact pattern arises again, I think it would be awfully scary if there weren’t some sort of mechanism by which to reach that criminally.”

It’s not clear how quickly the panel from the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals from the D.C. Circuit will rule, though it has signaled that it intends to work quickly.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan rejected the immunity arguments, ruling on Dec. 1 that the office of the presidency does not confer a “get-out-of-jail-free pass.” Trump’s lawyers appealed that decision, but Smith’s team, determined to keep the case on schedule, sought to leapfrog the appeals court by asking the Supreme Court to fast-track the immunity question. The justices declined to get involved.

The appeal is vital to a Trump strategy of trying to postpone the case until after the November election, when a victory could empower him to order the Justice Department to abandon the prosecution or even to seek a pardon for himself. He faces three other criminal cases, in state and federal court, though the Washington case is scheduled for trial first.



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Blinken calls on Israel to ease toll on Gaza civilians and allow more aid

By The Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is back in Tel Aviv and, after meeting with top leaders Tuesday, said Israel must do more to lessen the war in Gaza's toll on civilians and said Washington rejects any proposal for settling them outside the territory.

Israel's intensifying military operations in central and southern Gaza are having "devastating consequences," the United Nations humanitarian office says. The fighting has killed more civilians, curtailed aid operations in the central region and put three major hospitals at risk of closing, the U.N. says. Gaza's entire 2.3 million population is also in food crisis, with 576,000 people at catastrophic or starvation levels.

Earlier Tuesday, Israeli drone strike in southern Lebanon killed three people in a car Tuesday morning, security officials in the area and the state news agency said. The strike about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the border with Israel came a day after a similar attack killed a commander with the militant Hezbollah group.

Hamas' Oct. 7 attack from Gaza into southern Israel triggered the war and killed around 1,200 people, and militants took some 250 others hostage. Israel's air, ground and sea assault in Gaza has killed more than 23,000 people, two-thirds of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory. The count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants.

Currently:

— Hezbollah launches drone strike on northern Israel base, Israeli military says there's no damage.

— U.S. defense secretary was treated for prostate cancer and a urinary tract infection.

— Israeli strike kills an elite Hezbollah commander in the latest escalation linked to the war in Gaza.

— The U.S. secretary of state rallies Mideast leaders to prepare for Gaza's post-war future.

— Find more of AP's coverage at: <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>.

Here's what's happening in the war:
ISRAELI HOSTAGE SAYS

OTHER CAPTIVE WOMEN WERE SEXUALLY ABUSED AND TORTURED

JERUSALEM — An Israeli woman who spent 51 days in captivity in the Gaza Strip says other female hostages suffered sexual abuse and torture.

Aviva Spiegel delivered the testimony Tuesday in a special hearing at the Knesset, or Israeli parliament, dedicated to the 136 hostages still held in Gaza.

Spiegel says that after one female hostage went to the bathroom, she returned looking agitated.

"I'm going to say words that are not pretty, but that bastard touched her," she said. "And he didn't even allow me to hug her after it happened. It's awful, just awful."

Siegel said in another episode, their captors tortured a woman they believed was an officer in the Israeli army while she was right next to Siegel.

Siegel did not elaborate on how her fellow hostages were abused, but she appeared visibly upset as she spoke.

Siegel, 62, was among some 250 people taken hostage during Hamas' Oct. 7 cross-border attack. She was released in late November during a weeklong cease-fire.

She pleaded with lawmakers to take action to release her husband, Keith Siegel, 64, who is still being held in captivity.

BLINKEN CALLS ON ISRAEL TO WORK WITH MODERATE PALESTINIANS ON POSTWAR PLANS

TELAVIV, Israel — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday called on Israel to take greater steps to protect civilians, allow more aid into Gaza and work with moderate Palestinian leaders, saying regional countries would only invest in the reconstruction of Gaza if there is a "pathway to a Palestinian state."

He also said he was "crystal clear" that Palestinians must be able to return to their homes "as soon as conditions allow" and said the U.S. rejects any proposal for settling them outside the territory — something far-right members of Israel's governing coalition have called for.

He also dismissed a case filed by South Africa against Israel at the International Court of Justice accusing it of genocide, calling the allegations "meritless" and saying they distract from efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. He said it was "particularly galling" as Hamas and other groups attacking Israel call for its annihilation.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday in Tel Aviv, Blinken said the case, filed in the International Court of Justice, is a distraction from efforts to halt the Israel-Hamas war.

LEADERS OF EGYPT, JORDAN AND PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY WILL MEET TO DISCUSS WAR

AMMAN, Jordan — The leaders of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, will meet this week to discuss the war in Gaza and surging violence in the West Bank.

Jordan's King Abdullah II, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have continually called for an immediate cease-fire and have met several times during the Israel-Hamas conflict.

According to a statement issued by Jordan's royal court, Wednesday's meeting will be held in the southern Red Sea city of Aqaba. Few further details about the summit were made public. It comes as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in the region.

Egypt and Jordan have acted as peace brokers in past conflicts between Israel and Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip.

Both nations have accused Israel of trying to liquidate Palestinian demand for statehood by driving Palestinians off Gaza.

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY IS CONCERNED ISRAEL MAY HAVE BROKEN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN GAZA WAR

LONDON — British Foreign Secretary David Cameron says he is worried Israel may have acted unlawfully during its war in Gaza against Hamas.

During a question session with lawmakers on Tuesday, Cameron was asked whether he had been advised

See Israel Page 32



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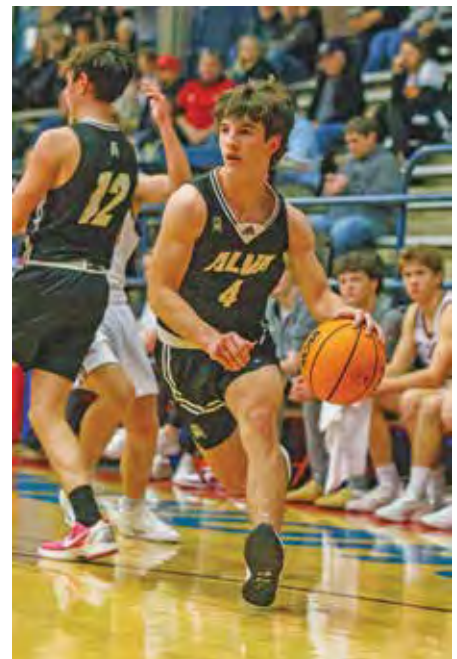
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From Page 30 Israel

that Israel was breaking international humanitarian law.

The former prime minister replied: "Am I worried that Israel has taken action that might be in breach of international law in Gaza, because this particular premises has been bombed, or whatever? Yes, of course."

Cameron urged Israel to restore the water supply in Gaza, but would not say whether depriving the territory of water broke international law.

Asked by a member of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee whether U.K. government lawyers think Israel is vulnerable to challenge at the International Court of Justice in the Hague, Cameron said: "It's close to that."

Britain has said it supports Israel's right to defend itself following the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas, but urged it to act within international rules.

FUNERAL FOR HEZBOLLAH COMMANDER KILLED BY ISRAEL DRAWS THOUSANDS OF MOURNERS

KHIRBET SELM, Lebanon — The funeral for an elite commander of the Lebanese militia Hezbollah was attended by thousands of mourners on Tuesday, a day after he was killed by an Israel drone strike.

Al-Tawil's coffin, draped in Hezbollah's yellow flag, was carried through streets of the southern Lebanese village of Khirbet Selm to the cemetery where he was laid to rest.

Al-Tawil, 48, is the most senior Hezbollah militant killed in the three months of war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and was the latest escalation in the daily skirmishes between Israel and Hezbollah skirmishes on the Lebanese border.

"The enemy should never one day think that we will be afraid," said al-Tawil's sister-in-law Samira on Tuesday.

Israeli officials have been demanding for weeks that the Hezbollah withdraws its fighters from the border area to allow tens of thousands of Israelis displaced by the fighting to return to their homes.

ISRAELI FORCES FATALLY SHOOT PALESTINIAN MAN AFTER ALLEGED STABBING

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military says its forces shot and killed a Palestinian man following an alleged

stabbing attack in the West Bank, as violence surges across the occupied territory.

An army statement says the Palestinian was shot Tuesday after attempting to stab a soldier near the city of Ramallah. The Palestinian Health Ministry says the 31-year-old man was killed in the nearby village of Ein Sinya.

The West Bank has seen a spike in deadly violence since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel set off the war in Gaza.

The Palestinian Health Ministry says Israeli forces have killed 341 Palestinians in the West Bank during that time. Most have been killed in confrontations with Israeli forces during arrest raids or protests.

MORE THAN 23,000 HAVE NOW BEEN KILLED IN GAZA, UN AGENCY SAYS

GENEVA — A top World Health Organization official in Gaza says he's seeing no letup in the intensity of the conflict between Israel and Hamas. The U.N. health agency, citing the latest figures from the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, also says the conflict that erupted Oct. 7 has now killed more than 23,000 people in the enclave.

Sean Casey, WHO's emergency medical teams coordinator based in southern Rafah, decried dire food shortages in the north. He said some health workers are now fleeing out of fear for their own lives -- after sticking it out for months to treat patients.

"I've been in Gaza for five weeks. I have not seen a lowering of the intensity of the conflict," Casey told a U.N. briefing in Geneva by video from the southern Gaza city of Rafah. "I went to Nasser Medical Complex just a few days ago and saw multiple explosions just in the few minutes that I was driving down the roads."

Dr. Rik Peeperkorn, WHO representative for the occupied Palestinian territory, said from Jerusalem that in addition to the more than 23,000 people killed, nearly 59,000 people had been injured.

He cited multiple trauma cases: "spinal trauma, crush injuries, severe burns, amputees -- I've never seen so many amputees in my life, including among children."

"This will have such a long-term impact for everything," he said.

A PROJECTILE FALLS AT AN ARMY BASE IN NORTHERN ISRAEL, MILITARY SAYS

TEL AVIV, Israel — The Israeli military says a projectile fell at an army base in northern Israel after Hezbollah said it launched an exploding drone toward the area.

The military said its air defense system was activated to try to intercept a "hostile aircraft," and that the aircraft fell at the base.

The military said no damage was caused to the base Tuesday. It did not specify where exactly the base was located but Hezbollah said it targeted Safed, a city farther away from where the daily Israel-Hezbollah skirmishes have been taking place.

AN ISRAELI DRONE STRIKE HITS A CAR IN LEBANON, KILLING 3, OFFICIALS SAY

BEIRUT — An Israeli drone strike hit a car Tuesday morning in southern Lebanon, killing three people inside it, security officials in the area and the state news agency said.

There was no immediate word on the identities of the three. The strike on the village of Ghandouriyeh came a day after a similar attack killed a commander with the militant Hezbollah group. Ghandouriyeh is about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the border with Israel.

Two security officials said Israeli drones carried out three strikes in the area including one that hit the car killing the three instantly. They spoke on condition of anonymity due to briefing regulations.

The state-run National News Agency said the strike in Ghandouriyeh inflicted casualties without giving further details. Hezbollah officials did not immediately respond to calls for comment.

Tuesday's strike is the latest along the Lebanon-Israel border since Hezbollah started attacking Israeli military posts following the deadly Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel by Hamas. Since then, Hezbollah has lost 150 fighters in the near-daily exchanges of fire.

Associated Press writer Bassem Mroue contributed.

ISRAELI ACTOR REPORTEDLY SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN GAZA

See Israel Page 33

From Page 32 **Israel**

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli media reported Tuesday that an actor on the hit Netflix show “Fauda” has been seriously wounded in the Gaza Strip.

Idan Amedi, 35, was sedated and intubated at an Israeli hospital and covered in shrapnel wounds, the Israeli news site Ynet said. He was in stable condition. Ynet said Amedi has been on reserve duty since Hamas launched its attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 and was wounded Monday.

“Fauda” follows a team of undercover agents from Israel’s domestic security agency Shin Bet in their operations against Palestinians. While the show is critically acclaimed, some Palestinians say it trivializes their experience under Israel’s open-ended military occupation of the West Bank. Amedi played Sagi Tzur, a rookie undercover agent, during the series’ second to fourth seasons, and

is also a successful singer-songwriter in Israel.

Israel has enlisted roughly 360,000 reserve soldiers from all walks of life in its war against Hamas.

GROUP WARNS THAT HOSTAGES HELD BY HAMAS FACE HEALTH RISKS

TEL AVIV — A group representing people held hostage by Hamas and other militants in the Gaza Strip warned Tuesday of the detrimental health risks to many of those held captive.

In a report released Tuesday, the medical team of The Hostages and Missing — Families Forum said at least one-third of the roughly 108 hostages said to be alive in captivity suffer from chronic illnesses or conditions like diabetes, cancer or heart

disease that require medical care or medication. It said 10% of hostages were over 65 and were vulnerable without nursing assistance. The report also expressed concern for the hostages’ mental health and for those who had been wounded during Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack against Israel.

“If no medical care is provided urgently for all hostages, the result could be irreversible health problems at best and death at worst,” the group said.

Hamas and other militants took some 250 people hostage in their October attack, according to Israeli authorities. Roughly 105 people were freed in a cease-fire deal at the end of November, while around 24 have been killed in captivity.

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Former gang leader charged in killing of Tupac Shakur is allowed \$750K bail and house arrest

By Ken Ritter

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A judge set bail Tuesday at \$750,000 for a former Los Angeles-area gang leader charged with orchestrating the killing of hip-hop legend Tupac Shakur in 1996 and said he can serve house arrest with electronic monitoring ahead of his trial in June.

Court-appointed attorneys for Duane “Keffe D” Davis told The Associated Press after the hearing in Las Vegas that they believe he can post bail. They had asked for bail of not more than \$100,000.

The lawyers argued in a court filing a day before that their client — not witnesses, as prosecutors had said — faced danger. And they say that their 60-year-old client is in poor health after battling cancer, which is in remission, and that he won’t flee to avoid trial.

“We believe he can” post bail, public defender Robert Arroyo said after Tuesday’s hearing.

The lawyers accused prosecutors of misinterpreting a jail telephone recording and a list of names provided to Davis’ family members, and of misreporting to the judge that Davis poses a threat to the public if he were released.

Davis “never threatened anyone during the phone calls,” said Arroyo and Charles Cano, deputy special public defenders, in their seven-page filing Monday. “Furthermore, (prosecutors’) interpretation of the use of ‘green light’

is flat-out wrong.”

The “green light” reference is from a recording of an October jail call that prosecutors Marc DiGiacomo and Binu Palal provided last month to Clark County District Judge Carli Kierny, who presided over the bail hearing.

The prosecution’s filing made no reference to Davis instructing anyone to harm someone, or to anyone associated with the case being physically harmed. But the prosecutors added that “In (Davis’) world, a ‘green light’ is an authorization to kill.”

“Duane’s son was saying he heard there was a greenlight on Duane’s family,” Davis’ attorneys wrote, using his first name. “Duane obviously did not know what his son was talking about.”

Davis’ lawyers also used his first name Monday, asking Kierny to consider what they called “the obvious question.”

“If Duane is so dangerous, and the evidence so overwhelming,” they wrote, “why did (police and prosecutors) wait 15 years to arrest Duane for the murder of Tupac Shakur?”

Prosecutors point to Davis’ own words since 2008 — in police interviews, in a 2019 tell-all memoir and in the media — that they say provides strong evidence that he orchestrated the September 1996 shooting.

Davis’ attorneys argue that his descriptions of Shakur’s killing were

“done for entertainment purposes and to make money.”

Davis, originally from Compton, California, is the only person still alive who was in the car from which shots were fired in the drive-by shooting that also wounded rap music mogul Marion “Suge” Knight. Knight is now serving 28 years in a California prison for an unrelated fatal shooting in the Los Angeles area in 2015.

Davis’ attorneys noted Monday that Knight is an eyewitness to the Shakur shooting but did not testify before the grand jury that indicted Davis ahead of his arrest Sept. 29 outside his Henderson home. Las Vegas police had served a search warrant at the house in mid-July.

Davis has pleaded not guilty to murder and has been jailed without bail at the Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas, where detainees’ phone calls are routinely recorded. If convicted at trial, he could spend the rest of his life in prison.

Davis maintains he was given immunity from prosecution in 2008 by an FBI and Los Angeles police task force investigating the killings of Shakur in Las Vegas and rival rapper Christopher Wallace, known as The Notorious B.I.G. or Biggie Smalls, six months later in Los Angeles.

DiGiacomo and Palal say any immunity agreement was limited. Last week, they submitted to the court an audio recording of a Dec. 18, 2008, task force interview during which they said Davis “was specifically told that what he said in the room would not be used against him, but (that) if he were talk to other people, that could put him in jeopardy.”

Davis’ attorneys responded Monday with a reference to the publication 12 years ago of a book written by former Los Angeles police Detective Greg Kading, who attended those interviews.

“Duane is not worried,” the attorneys said, “because his alleged involvement in the death of Shakur has been out in the public since ... 2011.”

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Monday, January 1, 2024

6:12 p.m. - Reporting party advised that a toothless meth head was standing on her property and threatening her. They would like a deputy to come and park so she can pack up and leave. Dispatch couldn't get the name of the reporting party. She requested the deputy email her and hung up. While dispatch contacted the deputy, the reporting party called back, again asking for a deputy, so she could pack up and leave. The reporting party still didn't give any other information. At 6:27 p.m. the reporting party called back again. Dispatch explained how a civil standby works. Caller continued to insist the deputy email her and refused to provide an email address. She continued

to complain that the neighbors keep driving by and stopping in front her house, in an Infiniti sedan, threatening her and then she hung up again. 7:19 p.m. The reporting party called back again. Advised she can't leave her residence to go to the courthouse to request a vigil standby because of all the threats from the neighbors and then hung before dispatch could give her the number for the court clerk. 8:05 p.m. the reporting party called back and advised her family wants to know why the deputy gave her his card if they aren't going to do anything. She stated the neighbor sits in the car on her property and honks all night. Advised she has had to cover all her windows and can't even leave to get food. Advised

See Sheriff Page 36

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From Page 35 Sheriff

she had video footage of her neighbors on her property but can't email it because the files were too large. Dispatch asked if she would like a deputy to come to the location and she stated someone had been out there, but they didn't do anything. She stated it was too late and she was going to bed. She also stated she has a heart condition and had three heart attacks yesterday. Stated that the sheriff's office didn't care and then hung up.

10:02 p.m. – Welfare check was needed. Caller advised her friend was supposed to stay with her after they got off work and they never showed up. Information was given to Garfield County.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

During this day were seven traffic stops.

2:34 a.m. – Reporting party calling back about prior matter concerning neighbors. Reporting party stated she had sent videos of the past trespassing incidents to the county clerk's office, the DA's office and the newspaper. Also stated they contacted the Kansas Game Warden and Enid Police Department alleging other authorities had some concern over the matter. Reporting party stated the trespasser is a "fentanyl shooter." She stated she had multiple witnesses, nine cameras and evidence of trespassing. She refused to give her name or location or provide information as to when the alleged trespassing occurred. The caller then hung up. The reporting party called back and requested

further information to ascertain their safety. Advised she has a heart condition and has had multiple previous heart attacks due to the stress of the situation. Reporting party refused medical help. She advised she could not leave the property because she believes seven people, who were all meth addicts, would show up in her yard and hurt her or trespass on her property. She claimed her house had been broken into three days in a row, every time she left the property. Reporting party still refused to provide any other information.

7:04 a.m. – Caller was yelling and cussing that she needed to file a police report for identity theft, harassment and trespassing. Advised she feels she is being held hostage in her own home and then hung up. Advised deputy.

7:24 a.m. – Caller called back wanting to file a police report for identity theft. Advised someone had stolen her identity. She stated she needs good credit for when she moves. Advised the neighbors are calling her names and yesterday was her birthday and she couldn't leave her property because the "meth head" neighbors were calling her names and harassing her, and she wants to file a report and then hung up on dispatch.

Wednesday, January 3, 2023

During this day were eight traffic stops.

12:45 a.m. – Reporting party advised two vehicles were parked on his block that were watching him to make sure he didn't enter his house. Officer

See Sheriff Page 37

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From Page 36 Sheriff

was advised of the situation and made contact with one of the other parties.

4:06 p.m. – Medic needed on County Road 640 for a male with cramps on the right side of his chest. Medic took the patient to Kiowa Hospital in Kansas.

4:15 p.m. – Medic needed in the 500 block of Myrtle for a female who was hypertensive with stroke-like symptoms. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

Thursday, December 4, 2024

During this day were two traffic stops.

10:24 a.m. – Report of theft. Advised his horses were missing and someone later broke into the horse trailer and took a saddle and other items.

2:59 p.m. – Medic needed in 400 block of Oklahoma for a female with chest pains. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

9:28 p.m. – Report of a possible person out in the 300 block of 4th. Caller advised they heard the front door jiggling like someone was trying to open it. Advised they first heard the noises over an hour ago but has heard it several times since. Advised they were hiding in the back room. Advised they were with their mom and 14-year-old sister. Deputy en route. Deputy advised all was okay.

10:26 p.m. – Report of a white minivan parked backwards facing the gas pumps at the Jiffy Trip. Advised they had been there for several hours. Officer advised all was okay.

Friday, January 5, 2024

During this day was one traffic stop.

2:24 p.m. – Caller advised they slid off the road after turning onto a dirt road at OK-45 and County Road 710. She advised no one was hurt and she was currently trying to get ahold of roadside assistance.

8:01 p.m. – Caller advised of a fight going on in the 400 block of Central. Advised a man had hit a woman and stated they both have been screaming. Deputy advised he had a female and male in custody and will be en route to the sheriff's office.

8:36 p.m. – Medic needed in the 200 block of 6th Street for a female whose oxygen kept dropping. No transport needed.

Saturday, January 6, 2024

5:04 a.m. – Reporting party called in about another individual who was acting belligerently and possibly trying to break into the house. Advised they had a past conflict with the individual and has been informed by Cherokee Police Department to notify them if the individual came again. Advised they were already in contact with an officer at the time of the call.

6:54 p.m. – Medic needed on Jefferson Road for female who has high blood pressure and pulse and was dehydrated and weak. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

7:04 p.m. – Report of a vehicle vs. animal accident on Caddo and County Road 580. No transport needed.

Sunday, January 7, 2024

1:49 a.m. – Welfare check

See Sheriff Page 38

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Community Calendar

Wednesday

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

Noon Alva Kiwanis Club will meet at Cancun Mexican Grill.

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

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

Thursday

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

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

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

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

Friday

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

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From Page 37 Sheriff

needed in the 200 block of Massachusetts. Advised their neighbor's vehicle was in their driveway; driver appeared not to have exited the vehicle for 15-20 minutes and the car lights were still on. Advised the individual was an alcoholic and was concerned. Not long into the call, the reporting party noted the vehicle lights turned off and the house lights turned on.

3:54 p.m. – Caller advised someone had been vandalizing her pig stalls at Timberlake's fair barn. Advised there was a 5-gallon bucket of feed stolen. And around Thanksgiving the pig stalls had been trashed and two pig sticks were broken. The pens have been flooded and there was no running water there and the horse has been put up. They advised they were going to

put up some trail cameras. Advised they didn't want to speak to a deputy. Just wanted it all documented.

5:33 p.m. – Caller advised he has spotted road hunters on Aline Road between county roads 580 and 590. Advised he tried to call the game warden but didn't answer. Game warden responded and made contact. The individuals were just looking for a lost wallet in the area where their truck had broken down the day before.

5:38 p.m. — Caller advised of people around his property, and he did not know them. He thought they were stealing firewood and requested a deputy. Game warden advised the individuals were just looking for lost wallet lost in the area where their truck had broken down the day before.

Alfalfa County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 895 page 328: Jerry J. Barrett and Delores Barrett convey unto Kelly Dn Barrett. Lot 2, Block 2, Gibson Addition to Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 895 page 336: Melva J. Wedge conveys unto Melva J. Wedge, trustee under the Melva J. Wedge Trust. The southwest quarter of the west 57 ½ acres of the southeast quarter of Section 9 all in Township 24N, Range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Quit claim deed.

Book 895 page 345: Scott Armbruster and Terry Graham, co-trustees of the Patricia A. Armbruster Trust No. 1, convey unto Diel Properties Oklahoma, LLC. Undivided ¼ interest in the north half of Section 13, Township 29N, Range 12, WIM, etc. Warranty deed.

Book 895 page 364: Kirkendall Family Enterprises, LLC, conveys unto Warren L. Kirkendall and Rita J. Anthony. The southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 23 north, Range 11, WIM, Al-

falfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Book 895 page 377: Elias Stonehocker and Wendi Stonehocker convey unto Kevin Tyrrell. Lots 9 through 16, in Block 34, 2nd Filing to the Town of Carmen. Warranty deed.

Book 895 page 381: Earl Stanley Crowder and Elisa M. Crowder convey unto Thomas M. Schickedanz and Ginger Crowder Schickedanz. An undivided 47.7% (23.85% per grantee) interest in and to the tract of land containing 9.46 acres, depicted as Tract 1 and described by metes and bounds on the survey of tracts in the northwest quarter and northeast quarter of Section 12, Township 26N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Mortgages

Book 895 page 318: Boho Funky Flamingo Nutrition, LLC, to ACB Bank. Lot 8, Block 26, Original Town of Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: \$30,902.80.



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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.

Misdemeanor Filings

Erin Nicholas Kingcade, Carmen, 27, has been charged with assault and battery (\$317.75).

Jay Don Ryel, Amorita, 42, has been charged with driving while impaired; driving with license suspended and transporting open container-alcohol (\$1,404.50).

Civil Filings

Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Celia J. Goff, Alina: indebtedness (\$239.14).

Traffic Citations

Jay Don Ryel, Amorita, has been cited for operating a motor vehicle at a speed not reasonable or proper (\$249).

Paiton Heath Brewer, Alva, has been cited for operating vehicle on which all taxes due to state have not been paid (\$249).

Leslie Lorraine Alley, Alva, has been cited for operating vehicle without a valid driver's license (\$294).

William Jake Bowers, Waynoka, has been cited for leaving the scene of an accident resulting in damage to attended vehicle (\$249).

William Jake Bowers, Waynoka, has been cited for failure to stay in single lane of traffic (\$249).

Michael J. Dillard, Loyal, has been cited for operating vehicle on which all

taxes due to state have not been paid (\$249).

Leslie Lorraine Alley, Alva, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Hannah Nicole Brewer, Seminole, has been cited for speeding 11-14 mph over the speed limit (\$264).

Carla Lehl, Alva, has been cited for speeding 16-20 mph over the speed limit (\$279).

Tate Scott Allison, Cherokee, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Max Douglas Tidwell, Amarillo, Texas, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Paiton Heath Brewer, Alva, was cited with not wearing a seatbelt (\$20).

Wildlife Filings

Adam Tyler Rust has been cited for over daily limit of pintail ducks (\$264).

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www.northwestfamily.net

If you are 18 years old or younger and not living with your parents due to being homeless, runaway, or at risk for one of these conditions please come by or call Northwest Family Services at 580-327-2900. We are located at 620 Flynn Street in Alva. We have information that may be helpful to you. There is no charge for our services.

The City of Alva invites you to the
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