

**THE ALVA
REVIEW
COURIER**

NEWSGRAM

VOLUME 44, NO. 16 • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 • 50¢
620 CHOCTAW, ALVA, OKLAHOMA 73717

Charges filed in
Freedom's
double homicide
case

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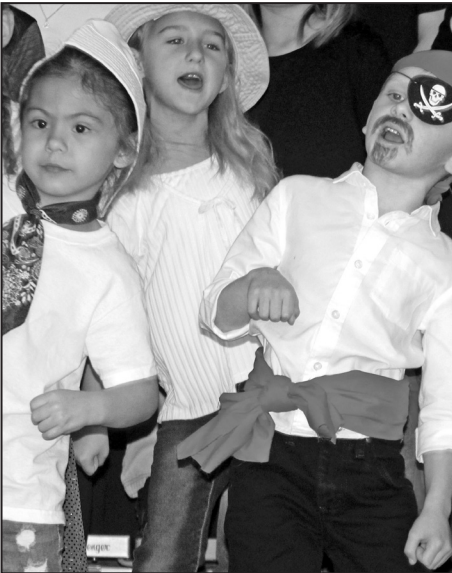


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AARRGG! – This rowdy pirate is a girl – Ada McNett. South Barber’s kindergarten through fourth-grade students have fun putting on a spring vocal show entitled ‘The High Seas’ with their vocal teacher Erin Place.
Photo by Yvonne Miller



HOLDIN’ ON WHILE RIDIN’ THE SEAS – These kiddos ride the high seas with their fellow pirates (classmates) during the spring music program of South Barber Elementary K-4, directed by Erin Place. From left: Everly Martin, Jordy Lohmann, Sutton Rhodes. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*

Alfalfa County commissioners sign to change 911 board meeting time

By Stacy Sanborn

Mike Roach, one of the Alfalfa County commissioners, was absent from their meeting on Monday, but Garret Johnson and Nate Ross were there and heard from Cherokee city manager Chad Roach, who was on hand to ask for help cleaning up a burned-down house in town.

The house, near the high school, burned down almost two years ago and is not only an eyesore, the city manager said, but it could pose a danger to kids passing by. Roach said he wishes to have the mess cleared up before high school graduation, and Johnson and Ross said they would help to get it done.

After the two commissioners signed approval on the previous meeting minutes, maintenance and operation warrants for payment, and blanket purchase orders, they looked at some paperwork from the district attorney regarding officers’ salaries.

County clerk Laneta Schwerdtfeger explained that a couple of years ago, the state legislature passed a bill to force county elected officials in all 77 counties to take a \$5,000 pay raise.

“We did not have the money at that time, so we talked back and forth with Brian Mitchell, our ADA here, and Chris Boring, the DA in our district,” she

said, adding that Boring told them that if every officer in their county opted not to take the raise, they needed a signed resolution saying so.

Not everyone has signed it, Schwerdtfeger said, and stated it’s an all-or-none deal; if one person doesn’t sign it, everyone has to take the raise.

“According to statutes,” Schwerdtfeger continued, “you cannot take a raise in the middle of your term, but it doesn’t state any of that in the new legislation.”

The issue has caused confusion throughout every county in the state. A few elected officials in Alfalfa County who started in 2023 took the raise at the beginning of the third term, and now they are trying to figure out what to do with the others, the county clerk said.

After that discussion, Johnson and Ross signed documents for the 911 monthly meeting to change from 8 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and followed that by approving a private property access easement. The easement is in District 3 for Block 37, Lots 19-21 of Helena Original, and was approved to remove concrete from the owner’s property to place in county road washouts.

Next, the two men declared surplus on a Dell 22-inch computer monitor from the election board office (Invoice No. SL220-222.1B, Serial No. VN-0CM9TJ-QDV00-313-0FJU) and signed a resolution for its disposal.

Before the meeting adjourned, Johnson and Ross signed a corrective action plan per 2 CFR § 200.511c regarding audit findings follow-up for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Elias Stonehocker, who is running against Mike Roach for District 2 Alfalfa County commissioner, observed the meeting from the gallery.

Thanks to our volunteers, MDA is the first voluntary health agency to receive the AMA’s Lifetime Achievement Award.



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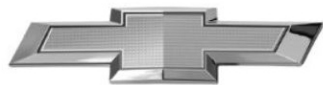
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Solving the mystery of missing emails

By Marione Martin



Email is both efficient and frustrating.

More and more, we rely on email at the newspaper office to send and receive information in advertising and news. Last week, our email host stopped working for several hours ... on a Tuesday! I wondered at the time if the Monday eclipse

had anything to do with it.

Whatever the cause, email was down for four or five hours while we were working under a deadline to get the Newsgram finished for publication. We had to contact several people by phone to have them send their ad copy to an alternate email address.

Recently, there was a column in the Publishers Auxiliary, a newspaper for newspaper people, titled "Where did my email go?" The column offers five

ways to make sure people get your email message. One of those was creating an alternate email address, something that helped us last week. Since email is such a big part of modern life, I thought you'd appreciate Kevin Slimp's five ways to keep your emails from ending up in someone's spam folder.

- Don't use JPG or other graphics in your email signature. Slimp said he had hundreds of his emails returned by spam filters on the same day. He contacted his email host to figure out how this happened. There were two potential problems. One was his email signature, which included a JPG version of his company logo. He quickly learned spam filters don't like those.

- Don't use email shorteners in your email messages. Slimp learned this in the same call to his email host. That was a bigger problem than his signature. He had used a shortener – msb.press.com – for years in place of a longer URL.

- Create an alternate email address to use with essential messages. When you have a crucial message to send to someone who isn't a frequent email

correspondent, you can send the same message from your standard and your alternate email address. At the paper, our alternate email address is Gmail. The recipient might get two identical messages, but that's better than the message getting lost in spam.

Personally, I have several email addresses. You know all those sales emails you get after you order something online? My daughter set up an email address to use for online purchases. That way her personal message email didn't get clogged up with sale notifications and suggestions for products.

- Attachments are big red flags for spam filters, especially if you add too many. Emails with too many attachments are unlikely to reach recipients' inboxes. You might get around this by sending multiple emails with fewer attachments in each. Slimp uses Dropbox and sets up a link to send in an email.

- Keep email subjects short, without using special characters. Use only letters and numbers in the subject area of an email. Never use percent symbols, exclamation points or other special characters. Chances are messages with subject lines using these characters won't make it to the inbox. All caps subjects are another way to get sent to spam.

We need spam filters to search our emails to protect us from malicious cyber-attacks. In response to the rise in email fraud and phishing, advances in artificial intelligence have made modern spam filters more sophisticated and accurate. The downside is that they are blocking more messages by becoming more aggressive.

It's a good idea to check your spam folder every day and keep it cleared out. That way you won't miss something you wanted to receive.

Slimp offered a few more ideas: Don't carbon copy more than a few people on the same message. Don't use trigger phrases like "Big Sale!" or "50% Off" in your message. Be sure your "From" line includes your name or company name.

I'd like to add one more we find effective at the newspaper office: ask recipients to whitelist your emails. We use this frequently when we have trouble receiving emails we want. If you've never used your email's whitelist or blacklist, look under settings.



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Two board members sworn in at Freedom school board meeting Monday

Basketball co-op with Burlington approved for next school year

By Kathleen Lourde

Two board members – one new, one returning – were sworn in at the Freedom Board of Education meeting this Monday. New board member Frank Biery (Seat 3) and returning member Robert Babcock (Seat 4) read their oaths aloud at the start of the regular meeting.

Board members Shane Morris, Philip Kirkpatrick and Kyle Rhodes also were present; B.J. Baker was absent. Also present were Superintendent Frieda Burgess and Principal Bryant Weber.

After the swearing in, the board was reorganized, as is usually the case. The board voted unanimously to keep the board’s officers the same: Shane Morris is president, Philip Kirkpatrick is vice president, Robert Babcock is clerk and Kyle Rhodes is deputy clerk.

Basketball Co-op with Burlington Approved

Superintendent Burgess told the board that she had received word that the Burlington school board had approved extending this year’s basketball co-op to last through next school year as well.

“Our co-op for basketball with Burlington went pretty well this year, and I think we would like to continue it,” said Burgess. “It has been approved by the Burlington board to continue the co-op. They’ve said they’ll do one or two scrimmages here at Freedom if we would like to do that.” Because Freedom only has three players participating in the co-op,

Burgess said she felt that was more than fair. Burlington’s new gym will be completed by next year, she said.

The number of players for next school year’s basketball co-op is not yet known, but Burgess said some fifth and sixth graders are “moving in next year, so we may have kids (in those grades) who want to play next year. We have one in junior high unless something changes.”

The school’s golf team and track team have been competing “just as Freedom,” she said, “and we probably want to continue to do that as well.”

The board approved continuing the basketball co-op with Burlington.

Other Board Business

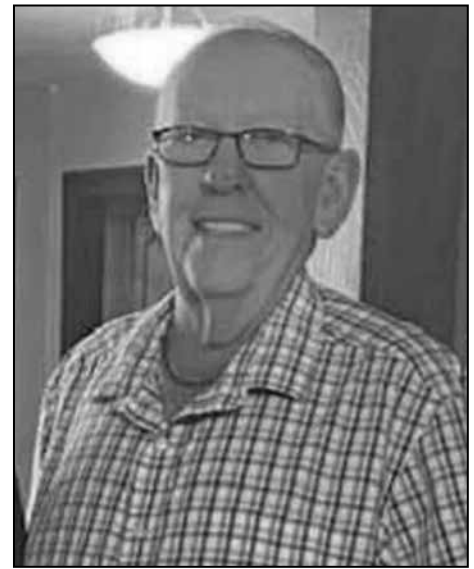
Burgess reported that she had talked with state legislators that day, “and we have not received any money for our teacher raises yet. They are hopeful we will receive some by the end of school. If not, we might be in real bad shape. It’s an unfunded mandate, and we may have to keep giving that raise that we haven’t received money for.” With dissatisfied murmurs, the board digested this information.

The next agenda item concerned filing a statutory waiver/deregulation for alternative education for the next three years (fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027).

“We have to do this every three years,” said Burgess. “We do that because of our small numbers. We really

don’t have to have someone hired to do alternative education because we’re small enough that we can offer our students pretty much individualized instruction.” Filing the waiver was approved by the board.

The board also approved the consent agenda, consisting of past meeting minutes; the treasurer’s report; encumbrances and warrants for the general, building and child nutrition funds; and activity fund expenditures.



Gary Bratt

Three Enid residents have been charged in double homicide at Freedom

By Marione Martin

Felony charges have been filed in Woods County against three individuals in the April 11 double homicide at Freedom. Christopher Isaiah Cesar Padilla, age 23; Elijah Isaiah Mann, age 20; and Catelynne Olivia Gorre, age 17, all of Enid, each have been charged with four felony counts. Gorre appeared in court on Monday and was ordered to be transported to Garfield County Detention Center until April 18 when she will appear on a bond hearing in Woods County. Padilla and Mann were

See Freedom Page 22







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Equalization board approves three of four Freeport Exemption requests

By Marione Martin

The Woods County Equalization Board met Tuesday morning to consider four requests for Freeport Exemptions. Oklahoma Freeport Exemptions are available for inventories held for less than nine months. They are calculated using purchases for Oklahoma inventory and sales from Oklahoma inventory.

Chairman Joe Shirley opened the meeting with board members Chris Olson and Bob Seivert present. Also at the meeting were County Assessor Renetta Benson and County Clerk Shelley Reed.

Benson said that Value Added Products had turned in paperwork showing they are eligible for an exemption of \$148,660, which amounts to a tax reduction of a little over \$1,000. She said VAP has applied for and been granted a Freeport Exemption for many years. The board approved that exemption.

Baker Petrolite LLC, which makes chemicals and other products for the oilfield, applied for an exemption of \$170,015, which would reduce their taxes by about \$1,600. The board

approved the exemption as they have in previous years.

Cargill Incorporated applied for an exemption of \$2.5 million. They make agricultural salt products. Benson said they have also received this exemption in past years. The board approved the Cargill exemption.

The final application was from Black Hill Service Company for gas and storage in the amount of \$16,200. Benson said the board has not approved this Freeport Exemption in the past due to court rulings. Shirley made a motion, seconded by Olson, to disapprove this request, and the motion passed unanimously.

The board also approved a motion to extend the equalization board session through June or as long as needed at the request of Benson.

Woods County Excise Board

The same board members met Tuesday as the Woods County Excise Board. The following monthly appropriations were approved: District #1 \$124,331.50; District #2 \$123,831.44; District #3 \$124,821.33; CBRI D#1 \$13,406.83; CBRI D#2

\$13,406.86; CBRI D#3 \$13,406.87; Enhanced 911 \$35,805.30; Assessor's Fee \$538.00; County Clerk's Lien Fee \$4,424.87; County Clerk's Preservation Fee \$2,110.00; Court Clerk Salary \$8,605.60; Treasurer Resale \$4,588.53; Sheriff Commissary \$36.38; Sheriff's Service Fee & CHS \$8,085.66; Mortgage Tax \$65.00; PSC of OK/Donations \$1,000.00; Federal Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \$13,191.50; Local Assistance & Tribal Consist \$846.58; Court Clerk RM & Preservation \$449.75; Mechanic Lien Cash Bond \$4.21.

The board acknowledged the transfer from Highway CIRB to Highway Personal Services in the amount of \$13,660.08 each for districts 1 and 2.

The board approved the transfer from the Rural Fire REAP Fund to the General Building Fund for the Freedom Fire Department grant in the amount of \$50,317 and for the Greenleaf Fire Department grant in the amount of \$53,411 for a total of \$103,728 due to the grant reimbursement by OEDA.

Senate Review

'Fast and furious' two weeks for Senate to consider 230 House bills

By Senator Roland Pederson

The deadline week for bills to make it out of committee is over. The next two weeks will be fast and furious. We have over 230 House bills to consider on the Senate floor, and I am sure there will be several that will be up for heated debate. I have five House bills to present on the Senate Floor and 3 Senate bills that are moving through the House.

As with any session, our obligation is to deliver a balanced budget to the Governor for his signature. This process takes months of preparation and debate. At this point, we are waiting for the Senate and House Leadership teams to



bring forth the budget. The Senate has proposed a budget, and because of the determination of a transparent budget process, we are waiting for the House to send their numbers so that the process can be completed and move forward. I hope this happens soon.

On Monday, former Sooner and NY Giant Sterling Shephard, other OU and OSU athletes, Miss Oklahoma, cardiac arrest survivors, and Buffalo Bills athletic trainer Denny Kellington joined the American Heart Association at the Capitol to rally for cardiac safety in our schools and to learn hands-only CPR. This event was an uplifting experience with lots of excitement. I also had lunch with the Legislative Diabetes Causes. They had booths set up to share lifesaving information for diabetes.

On Tuesday, we had a joint session

with the House of Representatives to honor our National Guard. Also, the American Farmers and Ranchers Day at the Capitol provided lunch and shared critical information concerning the agriculture community.

On Wednesday, I had the privilege to address Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program (OALP) participants. This leadership program is a great way to promote Agricultural Leadership, and I enjoyed sharing my farming and ranching experiences and my legislative experiences. While talking with them, I was able to share my Australian and New Zealand experiences when I was going through OALP.

In closing, as we begin the next phase

See Senate Page 12

Regarding the memorial fundraiser for Tim Wilcox & Gary Bradt...



Words cannot express how appreciative we are of the thoughtfulness shown by our community for supporting Tim Wilcox and Gary Bradt. The proceeds from the memorial fundraiser's silent auction and all the monetary donations will go towards the funerals of these two men. Thank you Alva, Waynoka, Freedom, Woodward, and other surrounding communities, for coming together to help our small town of Freedom shine a light on such a dark tragedy. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

The McMurphy Family

If you didn't have the opportunity to donate before the Ranch Rodeo, there is time to help with this cause!

Donations may be sent to:

Freedom Chamber of Commerce
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NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Cropland - This tract consists of 160 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek silt loam, Devol silt loam and Grant silt loam soils). This tract has a new 5-wire fence and a Hitchie automatic waterer. SE¼ 31-28-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$475,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Cropland - This tract consists of 153 Acres of cropland (primarily Tabler Silty Clay Loam and Grant Silt Loam Soils), and the balance being a 7 Ac. grass waterway. It is watered by a solar pump. NE¼ - 18-28-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$475,000.00**

NEW - 2 - 80 Acre tracts - A HUNTING PARADISE! Tall grass, trees and tree lines, brush, plum thickets - deer everywhere! S½ SW¼ - 12-19-23, W.I.M. and N½ NW¼ - 13-19-23, W.I.M., Ellis County, Okla. Location of property: From Arnett, go 8.5 miles east on Hwy 60 to County Road 190, then go 1 mile south to a hunting paradise. **PRICE: \$160,000.00 per 80 Acre tract**

NEW - 160 Acres - SE¼ - 25-27-15, W.I.M. This tract has 157 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Dale Silt Loam and Vernon fine Sandy loam soils.) Watered by a windmill. **PRICE: \$375,000.00**

NEW - 400 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" - Tall grass, trees, cropland, good fences - ¼ mile from Salt Fork River. This tract consists of 400 Acres of which 151 Acres is good cropland and the balance being 249 Acres of excellent grass. This is trophy deer country! Don't miss your chance to have a hunting place to call your own. SE¼ - 24-28-15 & SW¼ & W½ SE¼ - 19-28-14, W.I.M. Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$775,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - NE¼ - 6-27-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract has 75 Acres of good cropland and 85 Acres of good grassland. It has 5-wire fences, a small pond, and a windmill. Rural water is available. Excellent hunting on a paved road. **PRICE: \$320,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - NW¼ - 5-27-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract has 106 Acres of excellent grassland and 54 Acres of good cropland. Improvements include a 5,200 sq. ft. metal building with concrete floor and internal plumbing, a shipping container, and four other outbuildings. It has a new 5-wire fence and rural water on a paved road. Excellent hunting. **PRICE: \$430,000.00**

NEW - This tract consists of 960 acres of excellent grassland, all contiguous, being 12 miles northwest of Alva, Okla. 94 acres was planted to spargrass. 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 - 311 Acres - Excellent cropland. This tract consists of 311 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Grant Silt Loam soil). It has new 5-wire fences, a 20' concrete water tank with a solar pump, and a new set of steel corrals. This farm has everything done. S½ - 12-35S-13W, Barber County, KS. **PRICE: \$950,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - SW¼ - 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 - 160 Acres - SW¼ - 17-26-13, W.I.M. This tract has 157 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Grant silt loam and Pond Creek & Danford loam soils). Watered by a solar pump. **PRICE: \$390,000.00**

915 Acres - A Sportsman's dream - Borders Cimarron River in the State of Oklahoma. Legal E½ NW¼, Lot 2, E½ SE¼ & NE¼ - 28-27-18 NW NW¼ - 17½ SW & SW NW - 27-27-18, Woods Co., Okla. **PRICE: \$1,100,000.00**

NEW - 154 Acres - NW¼ - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 121 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 22 Acres of 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. SE¼ - 27-27-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$485,000.00**

NEW - 146 Acres - NW¼ - 20-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract has 146 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Dale Silt Loam and Vernon fine Sandy Loam soils). The farm has rural water and lies north of 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 10,000 sq. ft. home, 32' x 60' shop w/ 16" lean-to, steel corrals. N½ - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$1,050,000.00**

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. NW¼ - 19-27-7, W.I.M. and NE¼ - 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. NE¼ - 15-28-11, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

NEW - 474 Acres E½ and the NW¼ - 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 - W½ - 11-25-14, Woods County, Oklahoma. This tract has 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**

FOR SALE Commercial Property: Between Shepherds & Days Inn Motel on Hwy 64 East of Alva - 3.15 Acres. **PRICE: \$275,000.00**
Vacant Lot - 902 4th Street, Alva PRICE: \$25,000

RESIDENTIAL

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



SALE PENDING
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546 Main St.
620-825-4147

From Page 7 Senate

of the legislative session, please take time to take notice of what is going on at the Capitol. I am your senator, and

I do my best to represent you every day. If I can be of service to you or your family, please don't hesitate to

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

Carl's Capitol Comments

The complicated budget process often gets contentious

By Rep. Carl Newton



It's the time of year when much of the focus in the Legislature turns to the state budget process. It's the one constitutional duty we have each year – to pass a balanced budget.

As it does most years, things get a bit contentious before we come to an agreement the majority can live with.

This year, the Senate threatened not to hear any House appropriations measures until they received full budget spreadsheets from the House. The House Appropriations and Budget chair countered that we need to fix a problem with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 education budget before we can complete numbers for FY25.

The problem with the education budget is an error that occurred in the drafting of the State Department of Education's (SDE's) FY24 budget bill that left out the method of payment for longevity-based pay raises for teachers. The Senate proposed to order SDE to transfer money from the school funding formula to schools off the formula to pay the raises. This could be illegal and could lead to lawsuits. This is affecting about 40 Oklahoma school districts,

including some in our House district. We're working on a viable solution to this, and then we can move forward in completing the FY25 budget. I'm confident this will come soon.

In the meantime, we're still passing bills from the opposite chamber through committee. Last week, I presented five Senate bills in House committees. For the first time in eight years as a legislator, I lost a bill in committee.

Senate Bill 1907 would authorize the Department of Public Safety to provide the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority vehicle registration information that is available through the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunication Systems network. The only information that would be given is the name and address of the registration associated with the license plate.

There was great pushback by tribal leaders that the Turnpike Authority should not have access to this information due to tribal sovereignty. It's only fair that everyone who uses our turnpikes should pay the same fee, whether the vehicle owner has a tribal license plate or any other plate. We have an inability to bill owners on whom we do not have registration information through the turnpike's new plate-pay system. Estimates show this is costing Oklahoma at least \$11 million a year on tribal tags alone.

Plate-pay was put in place to save the lives of turnpike workers, and it was hoped this would also save the state some money going forward. Without better cooperation from our tribes in sharing their registration information, however, we're at a loss.

I was able to pass Senate Bill 1341, which would require the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to establish a phase-in schedule for measuring permitted water holders' usage. This bill has been greatly modified since it was introduced. It sets up a fair guideline between compliance and enforcement. The intent of the bill is for this to be fair for groundwater permit holders, but to protect this precious resource from those who might be tempted to overuse it.

I also passed Senate Bill 1914, which would require irrigators in a county with an irrigation district to participate in the district. This would allow all irrigators in the county access to federal funds flowing to our state and would allow equal access to technology to make irrigation more effective and efficient.

As always, if I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may reach me by email at carl.newton@okhouse.gov, or phone me at 405-557-7339. God bless you and the State of Oklahoma.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024
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SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
9AM-12PM - LESSONS /
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024
9:30AM - BIBLE CLASS
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Mercedes Drive church of Christ

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Murdock's Minutes

Appreciating the results of the next generation 911 law

By Sen. Casey Murdock



Last week marked the tenth week of session, and much of the week was focused on committee work as we crossed the deadline to advance House bills to the Senate floor. We're also still working to reach a budget agreement for Fiscal Year 2025.

With hundreds of policy ideas passing through the Legislature each year, it is important that we remain committed to implementing sensible solutions that will have a positive impact on our state and citizens. I am happy to report that one measure that was signed into law last year has done just that.

House Bill 1590 sought to improve the state's 911 systems and implement Next Generation 911 (NG911) technology across the state. This upgraded technology allows for decreased response times, the ability to better identify caller locations, and helps with coordination between agencies,

especially in the rural areas of our state.

The bill also increased the fee for cell phones that have the ability to call 911 from 75 cents to \$1.25. It's now been about six months since this legislation became law, and many cell phone bills have gone up the anticipated 50 cents per line, but some Oklahomans have actually seen a decrease on their costs for landlines. Since this bill took effect, all 10 counties that make up Senate District 27 have seen an average of a 100 percent increase in their revenues. Some of the most notable increases are from the Rogers Mills County Sheriff's Office, whose estimated annual revenues grew from around \$34,000 to more than \$171,000, and the Cimarron County Sheriff's Office with an increase from about \$45,000 to an estimated \$220,000. This legislation is a prime example of working together towards the betterment of our state as a whole and enhancing services for our citizens.

In addition to a busy week of legislative work, I also had the opportunity to meet with students from Northwestern Oklahoma State University to discuss Oklahoma's Promise, the state's tuition

program for Oklahoma students. Many of the students not only attend college in our district, but also have grown up in northwest Oklahoma.

This program assists many students across the state, including many rural students, and ensures they have access to higher education opportunities without the barrier of worrying how to pay for school. I will always support this program, and it was great to meet with students who have used these scholarships to attend NWOSU, preparing them for careers in a number of industries.

Also visiting this week was the Fairview High School football team, who has won the Class A State Championship for the last two years. They're also the back-to-back state academic champions. Representative Newton recognized the team on the House floor and recognized them for their hard work and accomplishments.

It is an honor to serve as your voice at the Capitol. Please contact my office at Casey.Murdock@oksenate.gov or 405-521-5626 if I can be of assistance to you.



OH, THE PERILS OF THE SEAS – These sailors singing a rowdy song are, from left, BrayLynn Williams, Lexie Lohmann and Kennady Walz. Erin Place directed South Barber kindergarten through fourth graders in a crowd-pleasing spring musical "The High Seas." Photo by Yvonne Miller



BEWARE OF THE MERMAIDS – The colorful, enticing mermaids sing a mesmerizing song to call the sailors (l-r) Arianna Pulliam, Brianna McKean, Livia Miller, Luella Bogatay, Lillyann Anderson, Addison Blevins. This was during the South Barber Elementary K-4 spring musical “The High Seas” directed by Erin Place. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*



PIRATE DANCE – Wild and crazy on “The High Seas,” this group does the “Pirate Dance.” These pirates have more fun than a barrel of monkeys as they wiggle down: (from left) Remi Miller, Maddie Molz, Avrianna Paasch, Kennadie Cox, Tenley Graves, Ryker Gosvener, Ada McNett, Ellie Wright. Erin Place directed South Barber’s K-4 in the spring musical. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

APRIL ONLINE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION — *Still time to consign!*

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- 2006 Case AFX 8010 Combine
- Case 2162 Draper Flexible Header - 40'
- 1985 John Deere 8820 Titan II Combine
- 2002 John Deere 930R 30' Platform Header with Bullmobile Header Trailer
- United Farm Tools 400 Bushel Grain Cart



TRACTORS

- 1976 John Deere 4630 Tractor with Loader
- John Deere 4020 Tractor
- Case 2290 Tractor



HAY EQUIPMENT

- 2013 New Holland 7090 Round Baler - 5'x6'
- Vermeer 605 Super J Round Baler
- John Deere 1600 Swinger Swather - 16'



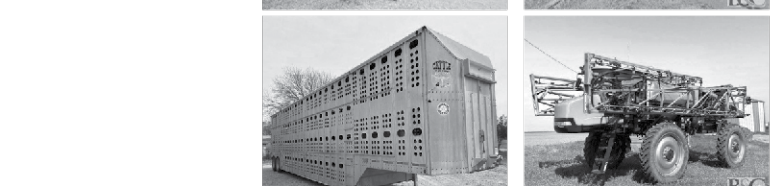
LARGE MACHINERY

- Caterpillar 320L Trackhoe
- Caterpillar D5 Dozer
- Clark Motor Grader with Cummins Engine



PICKUPS

- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 with Spike Bed
- 2004 Ford F150 Standard Cab Short Bed
- 2003 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup with Besler Arm Bed



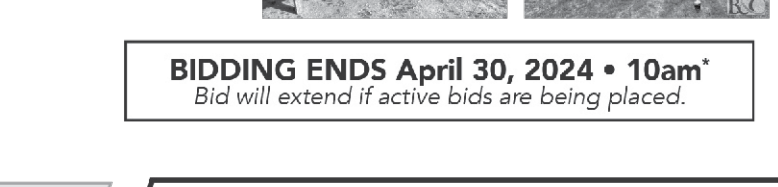
TRAILERS

- Gooseneck 24' Open Top Stock Trailer
- 1996 Merritt Cattle Trailer - 48'
- Doonan Grain Trailer-42'
- Lowboy Equipment Trailer-37'
- Belly Dump Rock Trailer -41'



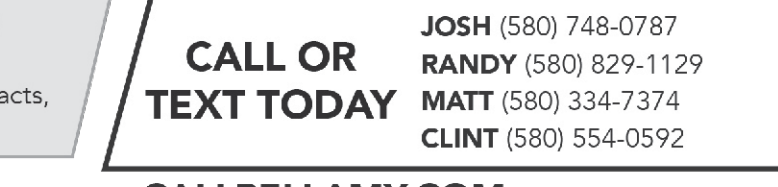
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GRANT COUNTY LAND AUCTION

with Simulcast Bidding Available (signal permitting)
Legal: NW/4 of Section 21, Township 28 North, Range 8 West, Grant County, OK
 Rare small tract that offers great recreational and livestock potential. Large pond, productive grassland and areas of timber/cover for whitetail deer, pheasants/quail and migratory birds. Established grassland for cattle grazing, this would be a great tract close to town for a homesite, place for horses, etc. Be sure to take a look at this one!
FSA Information: Per the Farm Service Agency, consists of 156.82 Acres, 88.78 Cropland acres, with a Wheat Base of 71.36 Acres, and a PLC Yield of 25 Bu, as well as a Grain Sorghum base of 15.40 acres and a 25 PLC Yield.
Soil Information: Primary soil types include Class 2 Hawley fine sandy loam, and Class 3 Eda loamy fine sand.



Friday, April 19 • 10am
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JOSEPHINE E. RICKS ESTATE TIMED ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

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The Aline-Cleo Junior/Senior Banquet and Prom was held at Aline Christian Church Youth Center Saturday, April 13. Friends and family gathered to watch the guests arriving for the promenade at 6:15. The theme of “Western Prom” was carried out with country fried steak dinners served to over 50 guests. Gabby Taylor and Jonny Matsko received the honor of Queen and King during the prom.



On Patriot’s Day, proud American Jennifer Schubert-Akin carries Old Glory as she crosses the Boston Marathon finish line for the 30th consecutive time Monday. She is a 1975 graduate of Burlington High School and resides in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, with her husband Rick.

Schubert-Akin finishes 30th consecutive Boston Marathon

By Yvonne Miller

The weather was ideal for the running of the 128th Boston Marathon. At age 66, Jennifer Schubert-Akin (sister of this reporter) finished the 26.2-mile race. Afterward, the always-determined runner said, “It was hard. It was very warm today.” She added, “Another fantastic experience running the Boston Marathon and crossing the finish line for the 30th consecutive year!”

Her finish time was 4:18:11. This placed her 7,309th of the 11,418 women in the race. Of the 26,481 in the race, Jennifer placed 18,468th.

“Thanks to the support of many generous people, we raised \$23,000 plus

See **Marathon Page 22**

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www.GatewayFirst.com

From Page 20 Marathon

for the National MS Society. Since 1995, the total raised through ‘Jennifer’s Run to Defeat MS’ is approximately \$220,000.”

She runs to propel MS research to hopefully find a cure and develop more new meds to slow or stop progression of the neurological, debilitating disease. It’s affected me, her sister for decades, and now her niece Elizabeth.

From Page 6 Freedom



Timothy Wilcox

arraigned Tuesday.

All three face two counts of murder in the first degree – deliberate intent in the shooting of Gary Neil Bradt multiple times and Timothy Lane Wilcox multiple times. This crime is punishable by death, imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for life without parole.

See **Freedom** Page 24

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Paralyzed: Friends of Michael Gorden plan pizza fundraiser at Yur Place April 28

Bake sale also planned

By Yvonne Miller

“It’s such a blow. He’s just 40 years old and paralyzed from the chest down,” Hardtner, Kansas man David “Flash” Gorden said of his son Michael.

The father and son have worked side-by-side in David’s business, Gorden Guttering and Siding. Nearly three weeks ago, Michael was helping his friend Josh Anderson shingle a roof in Attica when a tragic accident happened. David said Josh told him that he and Michael were on the roof working. Josh turned around and didn’t see Michael and then found him on the ground. Michael’s dad said he told them he has no recollection of what happened to him – why he fell.

It was a 15-foot fall off the roof. Michael was immediately taken to a Wichita hospital where he endured a nearly six hour surgery. His dad said surgeons could not repair one disc, leaving him paralyzed from the chest down.

“He is good – getting stronger every day and has use of his arms. He’s in really good spirits,” David said of his

son. “He can joke.” Now he’s headed for a rehab facility in Kansas City.

David’s voice quivered as he told how Michael’s brother Dustin “quit his good job selling medical equipment to come home and help his brother.” The boys are South Barber graduates. While on this call, David was in Hardtner tending to business at his Grant site awaiting new golf carts to sell – thanks to David’s brother. Mom Sonny was in Kansas City with her son at the hospital. Michael has a daughter, Maddie, age 10, and a son, Alex, in Wichita who is a Koch certified welder.

“We’ve got lots of help from friends and family,” David said. “We appreciate the heck out of everyone helping us out.”

A group of friends and family are helping with a pizza fundraiser, which is Sunday, April 28, from 4 to 7 p.m. You may pre-order with Yur Place 620-296-4477. Pizzas may be ordered to “take and bake” or baked.

In addition to this fundraiser, David said there is also a GoFundMe page for Michael.

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APRIL 19 • 8:00AM

**Senator Casey Murdock,
Representative Carl Newton,
& other state officials will give
a legislative update and be
available for Q&A session.**

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at



From Page 22 Freedom

Each is individually charged with conspiracy to commit a murder, punishable by imprisonment up to ten years or a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. They are also each charged with robbery – first degree in the theft of firearms, which is punishable by imprisonment of not less than ten years.

On April 11 at approximately 3:59 a.m. the Woods County Sheriff’s Office received a call of gunshots in the area of Saddlehorn Drive and Dusty Trail in Freedom. At 4:04 a.m., the sheriff’s office received a call with a person moaning on the other end of the line. The call was later determined to have come from 1275 Dusty Trail in Freedom.

Woods County deputies arrived on the scene and found 70-year-old Gary Bradt immediately inside the primary entryway of the residence. Timothy Wilcox, age 19, was found inside the living room of the residence in a recliner. Wilcox appeared to be alive. Woods County deputies took Wilcox to the front yard of the home and attempted life saving measures. Wilcox was pronounced deceased at the scene. Bradt and Wilcox died from apparent gunshot wounds.

Woods County Sheriff’s Office requested OSBI (Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation) assistance. Special Agent Matthew Wallace responded and observed the scene. It was learned that the home was owned by Bradt and that Wilcox was living at the residence temporarily. Wallace

observed bloodstains in the living room of the home, fired cartridge casings and a handgun on the lawn at the northeast corner of the property.

Woods County Deputy Dakota Davis located a neighbor to the south of 1275 Dusty Trail who had surveillance video of the incident. At approximately 3:48 a.m. a black four-door sedan vehicle was eventually seen departing the area toward the south. The Woods County Sheriff’s Office issued a notification to surrounding law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the described vehicle seen on the video.

At approximately 7:09 a.m. Mooreland Police Chief Bobby Kehn observed a dark blue Volkswagen Jetta parked near US Highway 412 near Cheyenne Valley, Oklahoma. The vehicle matched the description of the suspect vehicle seen on the video surveillance in Freedom.

The vehicle was occupied by Mann, Padilla and Gorre. Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers responded to the scene to assist Kehn. After several minutes of commands, the vehicle occupants surrendered. Padilla was found to have bloodstains on his hands and clothing, which he later admitted came from Bradt. Kehn and OHP troopers observed several firearms in the vehicle along with fired cartridge cases. It was later determined the vehicle was registered to Padilla’s mother and that Padilla was the primary user of the vehicle.

During the investigation, items

belonging to Bradt were found to be in Padilla’s vehicle, including items bearing Bradt’s name. OSBI conducted interviews with Padilla, Mann and Gorre with Gorre’s father present during the interview. It was learned that Gorre had been living with Padilla in Enid and was unemployed. Padilla and Gorre picked Mann up from his home in Lahoma either the evening of April 10 or the early morning hours of April 11. Padilla admitted discussing with and receiving payment from Mann to take Mann to Bradt’s home.

A witness interviewed later in the investigation reported that three individuals exited the vehicle. Wilcox was in the living room of the residence during the following encounter. After a brief conversation at the entryway to the home, Padilla and Mann shot Bradt multiple times, then shot Wilcox multiple times. Padilla and Mann took several firearms from Bradt’s home and placed them in the vehicle. Mann handed a gun to Gorre that was later found to be next to the seat Gorre was sitting in when contacted by law enforcement. Padilla, Gorre and Mann left the scene briefly before returning and firing two more shots at Bradt and Wilcox. After fleeing the town of Freedom, Padilla pulled off to the side of the road because he was too tired to drive. Padilla did not allow Gorre or Mann to drive his car. It was later learned that the handgun found on Bradt’s lawn was inadvertently left behind by Mann.

Obituaries

GARY NEAL BRADT

Family visitation will be held at Wharton Funeral Chapel on Friday, April 19, 2024, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 1 p.m. at the Freedom High School Auditorium with Reverend Thury Tolson officiating. Burial will follow in the Freedom Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.whartonfuneralchapel.com.



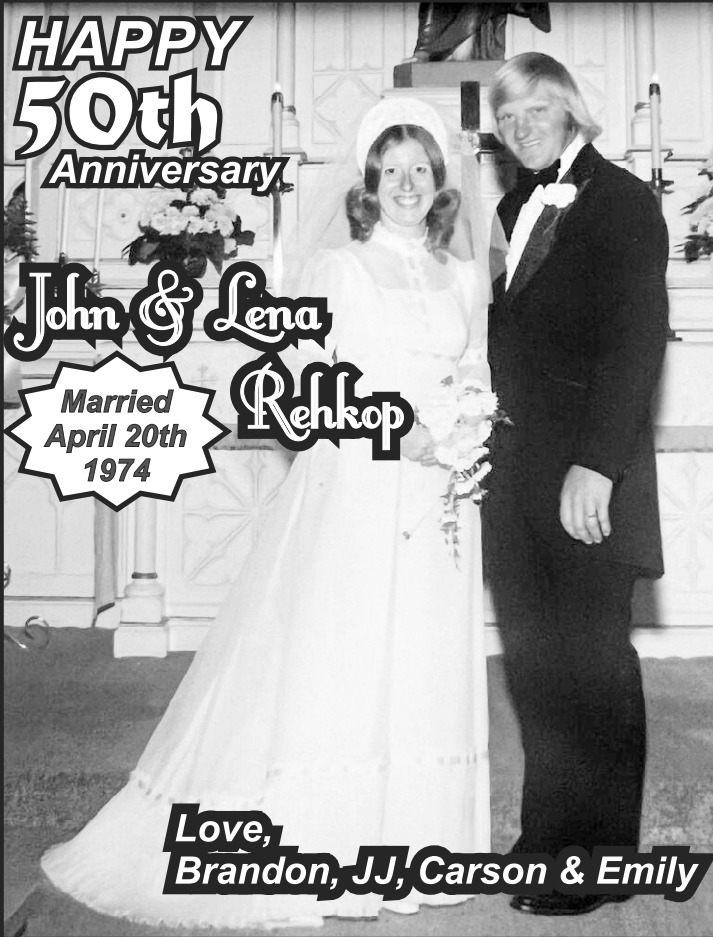
Gary Neil Bradt, son of Twila (Castor) and Rex Bradt, was born on Sept. 5, 1953, at Clayton, New Mexico. He passed away on April 11, 2024, at the age of 70 years.

Gary attended Freedom Public Schools where he graduated in 1971. Gary went to heating and air conditioning school in Wichita, Kansas, after high school. He met Teresa Gail Sjostrom and was married in 1980. To this union a daughter, Tabitha Ann, was born. In 2008, Dakota Province joined the family.

In the early ‘70s Gary went to work for Turner Transport of Freedom,

Oklahoma, where he worked for 14-plus years. After Turner Transport closed out, Gary went to work for Hull Trucking for 16-plus years. From 1979 to 1999 Gary worked as a volunteer fire fighter where he retired as chief. In 2012, Gary went to work for the Woods County District 2 Shed, retiring in September 2023. He was also on the Volunteer Freedom Chamber of Commerce for 40-plus years, worked the annual concession at the south side concession stand and was a very involved member of the Woods County Republican Party.

See **Obits** Page 26



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Kiowa City Council hears about solar panel power, tree board not planting in drought

- Councilmember Tom Wells able to join meeting by phone
- After zoning hearing, Humphrey granted variance

By Yvonne Miller

New City of Kiowa Administrator Ty Piper sat at the table for his first city council meeting at the April 8 gathering after starting his new role April 1.

Councilmember Tom Wells has missed numerous council meetings due to an accident/fall he took in early February that caused multiple health complications. He continues to be in rehab at Wichita. He was strong enough to join the meeting via phone. Mayor Bill Watson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Other councilmembers attending were B.J. Duvall, Brian Hill and Jason Thayer. Janet Robison was absent. City Attorney Brandon Ritcha and City Clerk Cady Tucker were also seated at the table.

Before the regular meeting, the council held a brief zoning hearing regarding a zoning variance for Trent and Abby Humphrey. This is on a tract of land on Block 50, City of Kiowa, Barber County, Kansas, described as follows: Kiowa Original City, Block 50, lots 5 through 10. It's the lot where the old hospital stood along Drumm Street. The Humphreys reportedly plan to put in a pickle ball court and also construct a building.

Mayor Watson explained that a variance would allow the Humphreys to build a secondary storage building without a primary residence onsite.

See Kiowa Page 28

From Page 24 Obits

Gary was an avid fisherman and hunter. The family would get together for annual fish fries where he would supply and cook the fish. Gary also loved his Lotto. You could always find him buying the Pick 3s.

Gary was an ordained minister and joined several couples in marriage; he was looking forward to officiating his best-friend's daughter's wedding.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother, Jerrell; his wife, Teresa; his brother, Myron Bradt and good friend Tim Wilcox.

Gary is survived by daughter Tabitha and husband Tony of Chester; grandchildren Cheyenne and Cole Justice, Logan and Cager Robinson, and Makayla Mirach, two great-grandchildren, Brycen and Aubrie Leal and his son Dakota Province of Freedom, many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his honor through Wharton Funeral Chapel to Freedom Fire & EMS.

CHARLES THOMAS CLARK



Charles Thomas Clark was born on April 11, 1930, in Byron, Oklahoma, the son of Ralph and Nina Clark. He passed peacefully from this life on April 8, 2024, just a few days shy of his 94th birthday. Tommy attended Rock School, Byron School and graduated from Byron High School in 1948. He married his high school sweetheart, Phyllis Graham, on October 1, 1950. They were married for almost 74 years.

He spent a short time in the Air Force, but he loved farming and being out in the field on his tractor. He loved his family

and his friends. He also spent 16 years on the school boards of Byron-Driftwood and Burlington and was a member of the Byron Christian Church and Byron Baptist Church. He spent most of his life living on the farm his grandfather homesteaded in the Oklahoma Land Run. He and Phyllis moved to The Homestead in Alva in 2018.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Clark of Alva, Oklahoma; two daughters, Patti Beard of Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Julie Wilkinson and husband, Keith of Colorado Springs, Colorado; two sons, C.T. Clark and wife, Brenda, of Byron, Oklahoma, and Randy Clark of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He is survived by nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Tom is also survived by two sisters, Betty Stroot and Beth Smith.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Mary Lou Williamson; and one son-in-law, William Beard.

Funeral service for Tom was Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Driftwood Christian Church. Burial will follow at Byron-Amorita Cemetery with arrangements by Lanman Funeral Home Inc. of Cherokee. Viewing was Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the funeral home with family present from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. (www.lanmanfuneralhome.com, Facebook: Lanman Funeral Home Inc.).

Memorials may be given to Byron-Amorita Cemetery through the funeral home. Please make checks payable to the cemetery.


NANCY L. HADA

Nancy L. Hada, 83, of Cherokee passed away Thursday, April 11, 2024. No services are planned at this time. Arrangements are by Wharton Funeral Chapel, Alva.

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TUES., APR. 23RD AT 6 PM ONLINE ONLY	<i>Madison -Hise -Groves Auction</i> Camping-Fishing -Decor -Vintage Radios -Storage Cabinet -Tools -Ammo -Vintage Toys - McCoy -Dishes 4218 N. 4 th , Enid, OK
WED., APR. 24TH AT 6 PM ONLINE ONLY	<i>Hubert Penka Estate Auction</i> Kaw Lake Area * 3/2 Home * 2 Shops 2.5 Acres Mowers -Pick up -Knives -Grain Truck -Air Compressor Collectibles -Jaguar -Household -Tools 1175 N. Enterprise Rd., Ponca City, OK
THURS., APR. 25TH AT 6 PM ONLINE ONLY	<i>Hubert Penka Estate Auction</i> 601 S. 1 st , Ponca City, OK Commercial Building Upstairs Apartment Lathe -CNC Machine -Auto Lift Milling Machine
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From Page 26 **Kiowa**

Citizen Pat Myers asked how this would affect neighbors' adjoining property. Ritcha reported that it would not affect their property. During the regular council meeting, the council approved the variance.

Solar Panel Power Presentation

Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA) rep Tyson McGreer made a solar panel power presentation to the council. The point is to find the most affordable energy for the community – and a source of energy that alleviates peak time. He said that “solar is hot right now.” Wind is still around but he said the thought in the industry is “solar is a better opportunity and a better value.”

He explained the difference between a PPA versus community solar. A solar PPA is a type of arrangement in which the property owner allows a company to install a solar system on the property. Instead of leasing or purchasing the system, the owner only pays for the power they use.

He said communities can see tax credits ranging from 40 to 70 percent. Kiowa would be in the range of one megawatt, which is \$2.2 to \$2.8M and takes from one to seven acres. He said there are many variables, such as geotech “what does your dirt look like?” There are also many financing options, such as a city can borrow and do it themselves, go through KMEA, and others.

McGreer said there are numerous ways to qualify, such as the number of free and reduced lunches at the school – and much more. He told the council if they are interested in pursuing solar energy KMEA is happy to help. He

reminded them that KMEA makes no money on this and said they are just a pass-through.

The council tabled this issue as the renewal date is not until June 1.

More City of Kiowa Business, Tree Board

Resident Bev Miller spoke on behalf of Kiowa's tree board. She said because of the drought, the tree board is planting no new trees this year, so they request no funds from the city. Miller said she'll continue to plant and maintain the decorative planters on the sidewalk in front of businesses in Kiowa's downtown.

Miller requested that Mayor Watson sign the proclamation declaring April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day in Kiowa, which he did.

Piper told the council he received the Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance rates for 2024-2025. Those figures show that rates will increase 13.52 percent for the next year. The council tabled the matter.

Tucker presented for council review the invoice for repairs to the south bulk water station. They made no changes. The council approved Visa authorization for Piper to charge on the City of Kiowa Visa account.

The Cowbell Cyber Security policy was renewed. This is an add-on policy to the city's liability policy.

Tucker reported that Allen Nichols from KDHE emailed that he would like the SCADA system fully operational before he comes for inspection. Bill Duvall reported that the telemetry system should be completed by the end of the week. They had to install an additional repeater on Cedar Hills Tower.

BG Consultants were supposed to have a final walk-through meeting with the city regarding the major waterline replacement project on April 3. That had not yet happened.

Chicken Rotisserie Through Economic Development

As Barber County Economic Director Julie Lyon updated the council on some of what she's been doing. She's ordered a chicken rotisserie for Hometown Market. One was delayed indefinitely so she canceled and reordered.

Lyon applied for a grant from the Circle Charitable Trust. She said Barber County Development received a \$25,000 grant for Main Street improvements to downtown buildings and it will be distributed throughout the county. She'll attend an infrastructure forum to apply for a sizable grant.

During staff reports, Fire Chief Bill Duvall said they are looking for another tanker. They've been busy training on the fire trucks for driving and operations. He said Well 2 on the old line has a water leak and needs to be repaired. Police Chief Travis Peterson said he has a girl who is interested in an internship as Kiowa's animal control officer. The internship is a requirement for veterinary school. Ritcha will send a contract to Piper. City Superintendent James Duvall was absent but submitted his report.

At the end of the meeting, the council held two executive sessions. One was for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. The other session was to discuss matters of attorney/client privilege. No action was taken upon return to open session other than to adjourn.



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City of Kiowa Pool Manager Needed

Summer help Pool Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the City pool. Must be able to be lifeguard certified, have outside pool experience, good communication, and record-keeping skills. Submit employment application or cover letter and resume to Ty Piper at cityadmin@Kiowaks.org

Kiowa City Pool Lifeguards Needed

Summer help Lifeguards and Assistant Pool Managers positions are available. Must be able to be lifeguard certified, have outside pool experience, and attention to public safety. Submit employment application or cover letter and resume to Ty Piper at cityadmin@Kiowaks.org

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Cherokee's Hunter Wimpee runs in his race during the Chisholm Track Meet Friday. Photo by Desiree Morehead



Cherokee's Tyson Ream hands off the baton to teammate Zachery Hellar during Friday's track meet at Chisholm. Photo by Desiree Morehead



Lady Chief Chesney Berry races in the hurdles during the Chisholm Track meet Friday. Photo by Desiree Morehead



Cherokee's Veronica Castro hands the baton off to Kynli Patterson during Chisholm's Track meet Friday. Photo by Desiree Morehead

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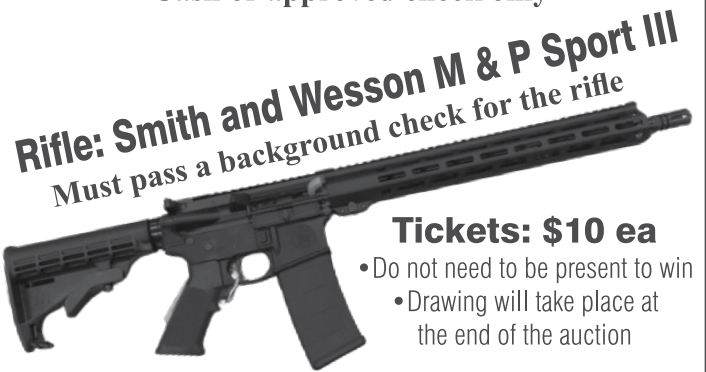
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Israel says it will retaliate against Iran. These are the risks that could pose to Israel

By Julia Frankel and Jack Jeffery

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is vowing to retaliate against Iran, risking further expanding the shadow war between the two foes into a direct conflict after an Iranian attack over the weekend sent hundreds of drones and missiles toward Israel.

Israeli officials have not said how or when they might strike. But as countries around the world urge Israel to show restraint and the threat of a multi-front war mounts, it's clear that a direct Israeli attack on Iranian soil would lead to major fallout.

Iran says it carried out the strike to avenge an Israeli airstrike that killed two Iranian generals in Syria on April 1. It has pledged a much tougher response to any Israeli counterattack on its soil.

With Israel focused on its war against Hamas in Gaza, and already battling Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon every day, the U.S. has urged Israel to show restraint.

U.S. officials say President Joe Biden has told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the U.S. will not participate in any offensive action against Iran, and the president made "very clear" to Netanyahu "that we do have to think carefully and strategically" about the risks of escalation.

Israel's war cabinet has spent the last two days debating their next move. Here are some considerations key to their decision.

INCREASING ISRAELI ISOLATION

Israel's successful air defense Saturday night — conducted in tandem with the U.S., Britain, France and Jordan — bought the country a brief moment of international support and sympathy after months of mounting international isolation over the Gaza war. The six-month offensive has killed nearly 34,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and unleashed a humanitarian catastrophe.

A coalition of international partners helped Israel defend itself effectively. Israel's military says 99% of the weapons were intercepted, with few reaching Israeli airspace. The attack caused only minor damage and wounded one person: a 7-year-old girl.

This coalition worked under the

leadership of the U.S. Central Command, which oversees American forces in the region. It works closely with Israel and moderate Arab countries to form a unified front against Iran.

Jordan, a country whose population is predominantly pro-Palestinian, joined the effort, despite being at odds with Israel over the war in Gaza, calling its participation self-defense.

It also appears likely that help may have come from regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia, which does not have official relations with Israel. A map released by Israel shows many of the Iranian missiles flying through Saudi airspace.

Israel has been careful not to identify its Arab partners, but an Israeli air force official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the mission, said Israeli warplanes needed to fly "east of Israel" to shoot down missiles.

Yoel Guzansky, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies, a Tel Aviv think tank, said Israel would be risking this goodwill if it acts alone.

"Israel can take advantage of this and buy itself a lot of credit right now, if it does not launch a massive retaliatory attack," he said. "But if it does attack, a lot of credit is lost."

The tacit support of Arab states does not mean they would assist Israel in a counterattack on Iran. Any air or missile response other than ballistic missiles — which would arc over neighboring countries' airspace rather than through it — would require overflights of surrounding countries, which technically would require Israel obtain permission from those Arab neighbors, said Daniel Byman, a senior fellow with the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"With Saudi Arabia and Jordan, there's kind of a route and access questions," in terms of whether they would grant Israel overflight clearance.

"From Iran's point of view, that would be seen as a hostile act," Byman said. "And even though these countries don't like Iran, they're not terribly eager to be seen on the side of Israel doing that."

FEARS OF A MULTI-FRONT WAR

A major retaliatory strike on Iranian

soil risks sparking a full-scale regional war, so any response must be carefully calculated.

A direct strike on Iranian soil would almost certainly result in a brutal counterattack and risk prompting Hezbollah to launch further attacks. The Iranian-backed Lebanese group has a far more powerful arsenal than Hamas, but has so far shown hesitancy about engaging in an all-out war.

Some 60,000 citizens in northern Israel already have been forced to evacuate their homes due to ongoing exchanges with Hezbollah. Heavier fighting would likely force them to spend even more time away from home.

A direct conflict would also further stretch Israel's military, remove its focus from Gaza and hamper Israel's war-weary economy.

Any major attack on Iranian soil could also undermine shaky U.S. support for the war.

Two U.S. officials said Israel has not yet told the U.S. how it intends to respond. But the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe diplomatic discussions, said Israel has signaled that whatever it does will be designed to prevent a worsening of the already tense regional security situation. That could point to a more limited action, such as a strike on Iranian proxies across the region or a cyber attack on Iran.

Tamar Hermann, a polling expert at the Israel Democracy Institute, says most Israelis are in favor of some sort of military response as long as it is coordinated with regional allies, including the United States.

"If it is done with no consultation and no agreement with allies ... support will be much smaller," Hermann said.

MILITARY CAPACITY

Israel's army is vastly superior to others in the region. It possesses a range of high-tech weaponry, including F35 fighter planes that can launch long-range munitions. Experts say it has the ability to directly strike Iran or its proxies in the region.

Fabian Hinz, a weapons expert and research fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the Iranian air force is "not even remotely

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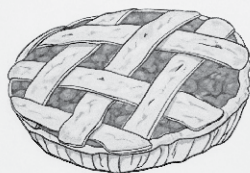
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From Page 32 **Israel**

comparable.” He said the force is composed of a collection of planes from the 1980s and 90s, with some dating back to the reign of the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi who ruled the country until 1979.

The extent of the Islamic republic’s

air defense system is less known, he said. Many of Iran’s missile sites and nuclear installations are deep underground, making them difficult to hit, Hindz added. Israel might also need the agreement of Gulf Arab countries to use their airspace — something that is

not guaranteed.

“I don’t think it’s going to be a full-scale Israeli attack against many targets all over Iran,” said Raz Zimmt, another senior researcher at Israel’s INSS. “It will probably be limited against one or two, perhaps inside Iran.”

Facing a Republican revolt, House Speaker Johnson pushes ahead on US aid for Ukraine, allies

By Lisa Mascaro

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defiant and determined, House Speaker Mike Johnson pushed back Tuesday against mounting Republican anger over his proposed U.S. aid package for Ukraine, Israel and other allies, and rejected a call to step aside or risk a vote to oust him from office.

“I am not resigning,” Johnson said after a testy morning meeting of fellow House Republicans at the Capitol.

Johnson referred to himself as a “wartime speaker” of the House and indicated in his strongest self-defense yet he would press forward with a U.S. national security aid package, a situation that would force him to rely on Democrats to help pass it, over objections from his weakened majority.

“We are simply here trying to do our jobs,” Johnson said, calling the motion to oust him “absurd ... not helpful.”

Tuesday brought a definitive shift in tone from both the House Republicans and the speaker himself at a pivotal moment as the embattled leader tries, against the wishes of his majority, to marshal the votes needed to send the stalled national security aid for Israel, Ukraine and other overseas allies to passage.

Johnson appeared emboldened by his meeting late last week at Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida when the Republican former president threw him a political lifeline with a nod of support. At his own press conference Tuesday, Johnson spoke of the importance of ensuring Trump, who is now at his criminal trial in New York, is re-elected to the White House.

Johnson also spoke over the weekend

with President Joe Biden as well as other congressional leaders about the emerging U.S. aid package, which the speaker plans to move in separate votes for each section — with bills for Ukraine, Israel, the Indo-Pacific region. He spoke to Biden about it again late Monday.

After Johnson briefed the president, White House officials said they were taking a wait-and-see approach until the text of the speaker’s plan is released and the procedural pathway becomes more clear.

“It does appear at first blush, that the speaker’s proposal will, in fact, help us get aid to Ukraine, aid to Israel and needed resources to the Indo-Pacific for a wide range of contingencies there,” John Kirby, the White House’s national security spokesman, told reporters on Tuesday.

The speaker is considering a complicated approach that would break apart the Senate’s \$95 billion aid package for separate votes, and then either stitch it back together or send the components to the Senate for final passage, and potentially onto the White House for the president’s signature.

All told, it would require the speaker to cobble together bipartisan majorities with different factions of House Republicans and Democrats on each measure.

Additionally, Johnson is preparing a fourth measure that would include various Republican-preferred national security priorities, such as a plan to seize some Russian assets in U.S. banks to help fund Ukraine and another to turn the economic aid for Ukraine into loans. It could also include provisions to

sanction Iran over its weekend attack on Israel, among others.

The speaker’s emerging plan is not an automatic deal-breaker for Democrats in the House and Senate, with leaders refraining from comment until details are released. They were due later Tuesday — though as the afternoon dragged on that was uncertain.

During their own closed-door meeting, Leader Hakeem Jeffries said House Democrats would not accept a “penny less” than the \$9 billion in humanitarian aid that senators had included in their package with money for Gaza, according to a person granted anonymity to discuss it.

Johnson will need Democratic votes to pass aspects of his package, but Democratic support for Israel is slipping in both the House and Senate amid the Netanyahu government’s retaliatory bombardment of Gaza that has left 30,000 people dead. A previous House GOP bill for Israel gutted the assistance for Gaza.

House Republicans, meanwhile, were livid that Johnson would be leaving their top priority — efforts to impose more security at the U.S.-Mexico border — on the sidelines. Some predicted Johnson will not be able to push ahead with voting on the package this week, as planned.

Rep. Debbie Lesko, R-Ariz., called the morning meeting an “argument fest.”

When the speaker said the House GOP’s priority border security bill H.R. 2 would not be considered germane to the package, Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, a chief sponsor, said it’s for the House

See House Page 38

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

During this day were two
traffic stops.

5:13 a.m. - Medic needed for
a lift assist in Goltry.

7:51 a.m. - Report of a
residential alarm going off on
Harper Road. All was okay.

2:42 p.m. - Report of a dis-
turbance in the 1300 block of
Oklahoma.

6:53 p.m. - Caller advised
a white pit bull has bitten his
grandson in the 500 block of
Kansas. Dog was taken to the
vet for quarantine.

9:40 p.m. - Three females
came into the sheriff's office to
report a male who threw a fake
\$100 bill on the ground and
then proceeded to stalk them
as they walked from Dollar
General.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

During this day were nine
traffic stops, one controlled
burn and one report of cattle
out.

9:46 a.m. - Medic needed
at James Crabtree Correctional
Center for a male with low ox-
ygen. Medic took the patient to
Bass Hospital in Enid.

6:35 p.m. - Report of a pos-
sible kidnapping at the track
meet in Cherokee. Advised an
8-year-old female was miss-
ing. The mother of the child
called back and advised the
issue was cleared up and no
longer wants to press charges.

7:15 p.m. - Report of loud
music coming from a house
on Grand. Advised they have
asked him several times to

See Sheriff Page 36

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From Page 36 Sheriff

turn it down. Officer advised they drove by the residence and didn't hear any music.

10:36 p.m. – Medic needed in the 700 block of Pennsylvania for a person who had fallen and was stuck between the bed and dresser.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

During this day were six traffic stops.

12:08 a.m. – Caller advised she had just been assaulted. Caller advised she was at the property attempting to pick up a juvenile, on the juvenile's request, when one of the owners of the property came outside yelling for them to leave. Then the individual struck her and took her phone. The individual then threw the phone away. The caller advised she picked up her phone and got in her car and called 911. Meanwhile, the individual went back into their house. At 12:38 a.m. the caller advised the owners are still requesting she leave. Deputy advised that she go back to her own property, and they will go speak with the individuals. Another call came in about the individual being aggressive again. Deputy went to location. Deputy advised all was okay for now.

2:32 a.m. – Caller advised they had hit a cow on OK-45. No medic needed. Advised the caller needed to leave but didn't want to leave the cow in the middle of the road and let someone else hit it.

7:06 a.m. – Medic needed in the 1100 block of Grand for a female who had passed out and was on the floor. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's

Hospital in Enid.

7:46 a.m. – Lift assist needed in the 700 block of Pennsylvania.

7:17 p.m. – Medic needed in the 700 block of Pennsylvania for a female who was weak, dehydrated and is on chemo. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

8:08 p.m. – Caller requested an officer to monitor a domestic partner departure from his residence. Advised nothing violent had occurred, just verbal and caller would like her to just leave. Officer advised parties are separated and all was okay.

11:37 p.m. – Caller advised an individual stated someone was inside her son's car. Officer en route and couldn't find anyone in the area.

Friday, April 12, 2024

During this day were three traffic stops.

6:11 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver in a gold semi cattle trailer on OK-58.

7:58 p.m. – Caller requested a welfare check on an employee in Nescatunga.

Saturday, April 13, 2024

6:43 a.m. – Report of a burglary alarm at United. The officer advised he spoke with the worker, and all was okay.

10:59 a.m. – Report of a small grass fire southeast of Byron. Amorita and Byron Fire Department advised it was hay bale on fire. All was okay.

11:58 a.m. – Caller advised someone had caused damage to his dump truck and would like to make a report.

Sunday, April 14, 2024

8:09 a.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional



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See Sheriff Page 37

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From Page 36 **Sheriff**

Center for a male with a head injury. The medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

10:04 a.m. – Caller advised their neighbors are playing their music really loud. Officer advised they turned the music down.

10:28 a.m. – Business alarm went off in the 100 block of Grand. Officer advised all

was okay.

2:23 p.m. – Caller advised someone had just gotten into her face, calling her names and wanting to her to fight him. Advised he left in a white truck.

3:27 p.m. – Report of a ditch fire on County Road 580. Cherokee Fire Department advised the fire was out.

Alfalfa County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 898, page 511: Gauamrit LLC conveys unto Kad-amaba2. A tract of land in the southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 24 north, Range 10 WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 898, page 582: Shane Gilbert conveys unto Jerry Scott. An undivided one-half interest in and to the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 27 north, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 898, page 585: Carol Scott conveys unto Jerry Scott. An undivided one-half interest in and to the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 27 north, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 898, page 590: Juanita D. Hill; Cynthia G. Nelson and Greg Nelson; Walter J. Lamle and Shelley Lamle, convey unto Craig Dickinson Juanita D. Hill. The east half of the north half of the southwest quarter, also known as the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 23 north, Range 12, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 898, page 649: Wayne D. Prewett conveys unto Tyson Kolb and Krystal Kolb. A tract of land containing 35.16 acres, more or less, located in the southeast quarter of Section 7, Township 27 north, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Mortgages

Book 898, page 516: Kadamaba2 to PCB Bank. A tract of land in the southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 24 north, Range 10 WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: \$2,000,000.00.

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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.

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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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,

Civil Filings

LVNV Funding LLC vs. Erica Lynch, Carmen: indebtedness (\$239.14).

Marriage License Filings

Ted Alan Laymon and Barbara Ann Ogle, both of Jet: marriage license (\$50).

Divorce Filings

Gary Mast vs. Stephanie Nicole Mast: Divorce (\$272.14).

Protective Order Filings

Amanda Renea Frame, Cherokee, vs. Shawn Dale Sauls, Cherokee: protective order (\$173).

Amanda Renea Frame, Cherokee, vs. Rhonda Marie Bennett, Cherokee: protective order (\$173).

Traffic Citations

Clinton Loy Grissom, Earlsboro, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Steven T. Bouziden, Alva, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Shanesty Horton has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

From Page 34 House

to determine which provisions and amendments are relevant.

"Things are very unresolved," Roy said.

The speaker faces a threat of ouster from Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., the top Trump ally who has filed a motion to vacate the speaker from office in a snap vote — much the way Republicans ousted their former speaker, Kevin McCarthy, last fall.

While Greene has not said if or when she will force the issue, and has not found much support for her plan after last year's turmoil over McCarthy's exit, she drew at least one key backer Tuesday.

Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., rose in the meeting and suggested Johnson should step aside, pointing to the example of John Boehner, an even earlier House speaker who announced an early resignation in 2015 rather than risk a vote to oust him, according to Republicans in the room.

"Speaker Johnson must announce a resignation date and allow Republicans to elect a new Speaker to put America First and pass a Republican agenda," Greene wrote on social media, thanking Massie for his support for her motion to vacate.

Johnson did not respond, but told the lawmakers they have a "binary" choice" before them.

The speaker explained they either try to pass the package as he is proposing

or risk facing a discharge petition from Democrats that would force a vote on their preferred package — the Senate approved measure. But that would leave behind the extra Republican priorities.

Later Johnson drew prominent support from five Republican committee chairmen in a unified show of force.

"There is nothing our adversaries would love more than if Congress were to fail to pass critical national security aid," said Reps. Tom Cole of Appropriations, Ken Calvert of the Defense Appropriations subcommittee, Mike Rogers of the Armed Services Committee, Michael McCaul of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Mike Turner of the Intelligence committee in a joint statement.

"We don't have time to spare," the chairment said. "We need to pass this aid package this week."

As the House debates, Ukraine faces increasing difficulty fighting Russia's invasion.

Lawmakers have stepped up their efforts to explain to Americans that the overseas aid to Ukraine largely flows to U.S. defense manufacturers to bolster production of missiles, munitions and other military provisions then sent abroad.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said this week on social media the U.S. and others' response to Iran's attack on Israel shows the potential of what can be done with "allied action."

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Cherokee's Tessa Littlefield competes in the pole-vault at the Chisholm Track meet Friday. Photo by Desiree Morehead



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- Why pay for stuff you don't want? We don't add window tint, paint sealant or fairy dust and charge double retail price for it. NO SURPRISE ADDs, PERIOD!

Want to know the price before you get to the dealership and it won't change when you get here? Call Us!

2023 GMC SIERRA 1500 CREW CAB 4W DRIVE AT4



#23089

Sale Price
\$64,805

2024 GMC SIERRA 1500 CREW CAB 4WD AT4



#24122

Sale Price
Contact Us

2024 GMC SIERRA 1500 CREW CAB 4WD ELEVATION 3SB



#24081

Sale Price
\$62,000

2024 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD CREW CAB 4WD AT4



#24116

Sale Price
Contact Us

2024 GMC SIERRA 3500HD DOUBLE CAB 4WD SLE



#24121

Sale Price
\$66,950

2024 GMC YUKON XL 4WD 4DR AT4



#24109

Sale Price
\$78,145

2024 GMC YUKON XL 4WD 4DR DENALI



#24106

Sale Price
\$89,805

2024 GMC YUKON XL 4WD 4DR AT4



#24114

Sale Price
Contact Us

2024 GMC TERRAIN AWD 4DR SLE



IN TRANSIT

MSRP
\$36,095

2017 CHEVROLET CRUZE HATCHBACK PREMIER



#23094C

Sale Price
\$14,875

2021 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 4WD PREMIER



#23741

Sale Price
\$52,000

2016 FORD ESCAPE FWD 4DR TITANIUM



#23751

Sale Price
\$19,875

2021 FORD EXPEDITION MAX LIMITED 4X4



#24708

Sale Price
\$40,824

2022 FORD BRONCO SPORT BIG BEND 4X4



#23086A

Sale Price
\$27,950

2023 GMC ACADIA FWD DENALI



#24706

Sale Price
\$38,500

2023 GMC ACADIA FWD DENALI



#24707

Sale Price
\$38,500

2016 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD CREW CAB 4WD DENALI



#24071B

Sale Price
\$48,750

2021 HONDA PASSPORT EX-L AWD



#23747

Sale Price
\$30,000

2017 GMC SIERRA 3500HD CREW CAB 4WD DENALI



#24714

Sale Price
\$48,975

1-800-749-6537
M-F 8-6 Sat 9-5

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