

**THE ALVA
REVIEW
COURIER**

NEWSGRAM

Local coop managers
give pre-harvest
update

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Record wheat price near \$12/ bushel, but low yields expected for harvest

- 30 to 50 percent of wheat acres already released in Alva area
- Looks better north and east of Alva, Jet crops look average

By Yvonne Miller

“We were one rain away from a really, really good crop,” Dacoma Co-op Manager Jake Kelln said of the needed raindrops in April that never fell in that area south of Alva. On Tuesday morning Kelln told the Newsgram, “Since last night it’s rained three inches and still coming down.” Too late for the 2022 wheat harvest, but welcome for summer planing of alternative crops.

“We’ve had three good harvests in a row. Unfortunately, a bad one has to come along,” said Miles Peterson, operations and elevator manager at the Farmer’s Cooperative in Alva. Their general manager Charlotte Murrow said, “The guys have been out looking in the fields. This will probably be one of our worst years.”

Despite those discouraging reports for some parts of the Newsgram-reading area, the good news is the record-breaking high prices of wheat.

Monday the cash crop price of wheat was \$12.09. The price of wheat closed at \$11.82/bushel. These are record high prices for wheat with \$12.94 recorded earlier this year as the highest price/bushel ever. Last year in a Newsgram article about the area harvest, the price of wheat was \$5.77. That’s just pennies higher than the price in 1979 when wheat finally hit \$5/bushel and has hovered in that area for decades.

There are numerous reasons that attribute to the increased wheat price and the bleak projections for the 2022 harvest

in parts of the Newsgram-reading area of northwest Oklahoma and south central Kansas. One of those is the drought in the western United States. Another is in the days after Russia invaded Ukraine in late February, wheat prices rose about 35 percent. The two countries account for about 30 percent of global exports, according to HPPR News.

With this world situation other grain prices are increased (as of Monday) such as: soybeans at \$16.12; and milo at \$7.51.

Peterson said, “The best wheat is this area is northeast of Alva in the Capron, Burlington area. Up north of Alva it looks like some 35 bushel wheat.”

“Rain at the right time makes a world of difference,” Peterson said.

He estimates that “closer to half or more” of the wheat crops in the Hopeton area south of Alva were released by crop insurance adjusters, meaning they will cover part of the farmers’ losses on the unusable crop. Nearly 30-40 percent of wheat fields east of Alva around the Ashlee Elevator were released. In general Peterson estimates that 30 to 40 percent of wheat in the Alva area was released.

“Anything that was planted to soybeans and milo has already been released,” Peterson said.

After driving around the countryside Peterson expressed some optimism. “There’s some good lookin’ wheat

See Wheat Page 8

Woods County Commissioners sign payroll approve loan renewal

By Marione Martin

The Woods County Commissioners signed payroll checks during their meeting Monday morning. They had to sign their names many times with warrants, claims and blanket purchase orders on the agenda. David Hamil, Randy McMurphy and John Smiley were all present.

A renewal of the ETR contract agreement for District 2 was approved. McMurphy said this is the state no-interest loan for road work that he has been paying off at \$10,000 per month from state money coming in for infrastructure work.

In a related action, the commissioners approved a payment of \$25,000 on the ETR loan from District 2 CBIR funds. McMurphy said he had accumulated money in that account so was paying extra on the loan.

The commissioners approved the transfer of appropriations from Highway District 1 CIRB to Highway District 1 personal services of \$17,403.73 and from District 2 CIRB to District 2 personal services of \$17,403.72.

A transfer of appropriations from Highway District 2 Blacktop Road Maintenance to Highway District 2 Capital Outlay in the amount of \$16,500 was approved.

The commissioners voted to dispose of six John Deere rotary mowers by selling them for the \$11,000 each sealed bid price submitted by Western Equipment. The six mowers had been declared surplus, and removed from inventory.

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Governments, businesses and individuals all affected by inflation

By Marione Martin

At the May 16 Alva City Council meeting, the councilmembers were considering a proposal to put a hold on the scheduled utility rate increase beginning July 1. The rate increase is part of an ordinance passed in 2017.



The increase is based on the CPI (consumer price index) in May. Since we're in a period of inflation, the May CPI is 8.3 percent.

There was a social media push to get people to attend the council meeting to ask councilmembers to stop the increase, but only one person actually attended and spoke on that topic. She asked the council to find other ways to pay city expenses.

When the measure came to a vote, the proposal to stop the increase failed 0-8. Two of the councilmembers intended to vote for the proposal but there was confusion about what yes and no votes meant. In the end it didn't matter as the majority voted against pausing implementation of the increase.

It's a little difficult to say the exact amount each person's utility bill will go up in Alva (and for those outside the city limits who use Alva water, sanitation, sewer, etc.). Sewer is a percentage of the water bill, and the increase doesn't apply to sanitation (trash) service or the \$5 designated for streets. Multiplying a \$100 utility bill by 8.3 percent give \$8.30. That's about the price of one fast food meal per month.

People grumble about all the increases, but they have very little influence on the price of food or gasoline to name two household items. At least on the utility bills, they know someone who will hear their complaints.

Alva Mayor Kelly Parker said if the

city cuts out a revenue source, they'll have to find expenses to cut to keep the budget balanced. So far, no one seems to have any ideas on what expenses to cut.

The utility increase is expected to add about \$313,000 to the city's budget for the year. That's about what the city will be paying out in employee raises and step increases (employees with good evaluations get a step increase).

Pinch of Inflation

City and county government is feeling the pinch of inflation just like individuals and businesses. Here at the newspaper, the price of newsprint has increased 23 percent in the past year. It's also becoming harder to get. We order by the semi-truckload, and those big bills add up.

Food prices are expected to go higher which will affect all of us. The price that restaurants pay for food is rising faster than they can raise prices on their menus. Pressures on food production continue to build, signaling that PPI (producer price index) could keep climbing.

Farmers are facing a myriad of challenges, including fertilizer shortages, drought and adverse weather, along with a US bird flu outbreak that's killed almost 10% of the country's egg-laying hens. Plus, the war in Ukraine and its effect on fertilizer supply and fuel markets only exacerbate the problems.

All those factors will likely lead to reduced crops, livestock feed, meat and other food supplies — and contribute to more price gains.

Any of us who drive have felt the pain of filling our tanks. US households spend \$4,800 a year on gasoline (based on prices in March).

We're all in this together so let's be on our best behavior so we don't add to the stress!

Top 10 Baby Names

On a lighter note, the top 10 baby names of 2021 have been announced.

Let's look at male names first. Liam is the number one name with Noah coming in second. Following are Oliver, Elijah, James, William, Benjamin, Lucas, Henry and Theodore.

The top female name for babies in 2021 was Olivia with Emma at number two. Those are followed by Charlotte, Amelia, Ava, Sophia, Isabella, Mia, Evelyn and Harper.

Monkeypox

Have you noticed how often the unusual makes the news? One case of monkeypox is found in the U.S., and it's all over the news and social media.

A rare virus called monkeypox is popping up in a lot of headlines because a handful of cases have shown up in Europe and the United States. While it is something to be aware of, it is, at the moment, nowhere near as large a concern as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The single case of monkeypox found so far in the U.S. involves a Massachusetts man who recently traveled from Canada. And now, Canada says it is investigating a dozen other possible cases around Montreal.

The Massachusetts Department of Health says, "No monkeypox cases have previously been identified in the United States in 2022; Texas and Maryland each reported a case in 2021 in people with recent travel to Nigeria."

Monkeypox is a rare virus, more common in parts of Africa, that can pass from animals to people. But in recent weeks, about a dozen cases have been detected in England, Portugal and Spain. UK health officials say they cannot connect the cases there to recent travel from areas that are more commonly connected to the virus. Does this mean the virus is spreading or will spread in and beyond Europe?

Monkeypox usually does not spread from human to human, which is one reason it is so rare. The World Health Organization says, "Contact with live and dead animals through hunting and consumption of wild game or use of animal-derived products are presumed sources of human infection. Milder cases of monkeypox in adults could go undetected, misdiagnosed, or unreported and represent a risk of human-to-human transmission."

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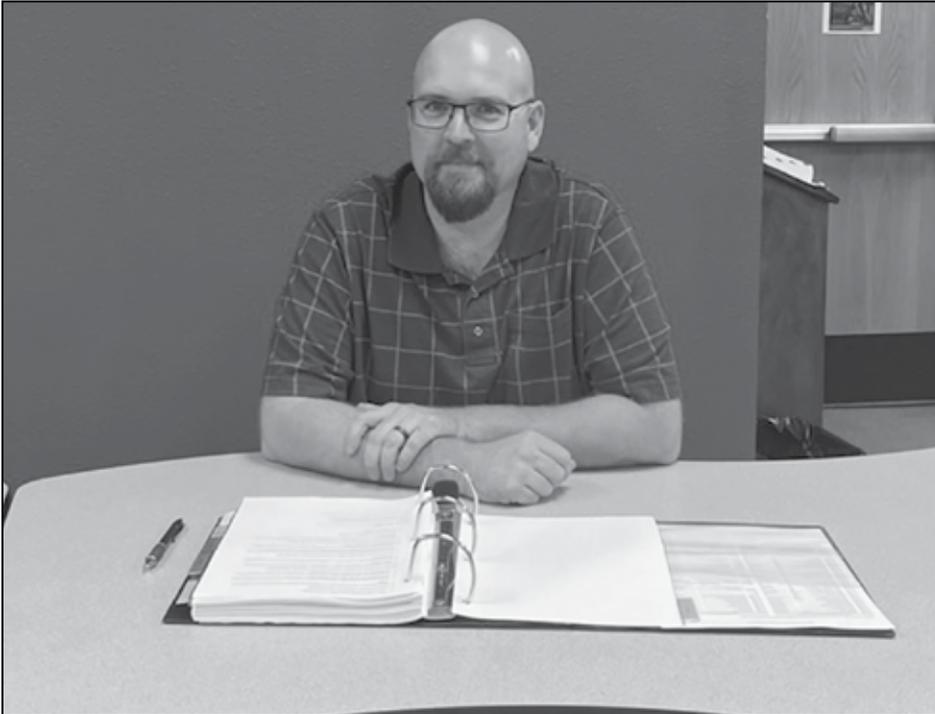
Thank God for the rain!



Bill Springer
Minister



Kyle Rhodes sworn in as new Freedom school board member



New school board member Kyle Rhodes, who was sworn in Wednesday evening, will fill Seat 1 until the February 2023 election. Photo by Valerie Brown

By Kathleen Lourde

The Freedom School Board held its regular meeting last Wednesday evening. The meeting, in the first half hour, started and stopped like a tractor with a clutch problem. Board members Richard Babcock and Phil

Kirkpatrick (along with Superintendent Freida Burgess, minutes clerk Patricia Dauphin, Principal Michelle Shelite and soon-to-be-seated new board member Kyle Rhodes waited about 10 minutes for Board President Shane Morris to put on a fresh shirt and rush to the meeting.

Once Morris arrived, the group began informally discussing how to swear Rhodes in, as his swearing-in had not been put on the agenda.

Morris stepped out of the room to call the school's attorneys and came back with a plan: the group, with Dauphin as notary, hurried to the principal's office to swear Rhodes in. Rhodes will fill Seat 1 until the February 2023 election.

Generally, after a new board member is seated, the board's officers are reorganized, but since member Russell Reed was absent, they decided to wait on that.

Personnel Matters; Renken Resigns

After a lengthy executive session to discuss "employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline or resignation of individual salaried officer(s) or employee(s)," the board took no votes when they returned to open session but moved on to the next agenda item, which had nothing to do with personnel. However, personnel issues re-rose later in the meeting.

Lists of certified employees and support employees were approved for employment in the next school year.

Teacher Jennifer Renken has submitted her resignation. Burgess read her resignation letter aloud to the board. Renken's husband has been looking for a coaching and teaching position, and found one elsewhere in Oklahoma, so the family will be moving. Renken expressed her thanks and said, "I have truly enjoyed working at the school."

Teacher Bretta Matthews will take Renken's place at the Nuts and Bolts professional development workshop. The cost is \$400, but it is paid from 515 grant funds, said Burgess. The cost was approved by the board.

The board also approved contracting with Sara Bowman to provide a summer education program for June and July. The cost will be covered by library grant funds.

Finances: OSIG Cost Soars by \$9,000

The cost of insurance through OSIG has increased dramatically, the board learned at the meeting. Last year, the school paid \$31,000 for the insurance;







**The Freedom Superintendent News
is a Monthly Presentation of**

Bank of Freedom
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Frieda Burgess
Freedom Superintendent
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See Freedom Page 14



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From Page 2 **Wheat**

around Kiowa.”

April of 2023 will mark Peterson’s retirement and his 40th year to work for the Alva Farmer’s Cooperative. He’s disappointed that his last spring harvest ends like this, he said.

Cherokee Co-op Manager Shane Parker Said the Moisture was ‘Too Late’

Monday Cherokee Co-op Manager Shane Parker said he anticipates seeing 10 bushel to 30-35 bushels/acre wheat cut this June.

“Compared to normal we’ll cut 80 percent,” Parker predicted. “We are getting moisture now, but it’s too late. We just kept missing even the small rains.” He described the wheat as “really thin.” He said the recent moisture and cooler weather makes operators hopeful for better test weights.

“We’re already six months in and missed a fertilizer season and now this wheat crop. Half the fertilizer and half the harvest – it’s hard to work with halves,” Parker said. “With inflation, the increased fuel and fertilizer prices it doesn’t pencil out too well.”

With more farmers planting Milo and soybeans right now, Parker said, “We’ll hope to survive and things will be better late summer and in the fall.”

Parker estimates wheat cutting will commence in the Cherokee area on June 10 or 12. “It’s a hard one to predict because our weather changes so drastically. If it turns windy and hot we will cut earlier.”

‘Thank Goodness for Crop Insurance’ said Wheeler Brothers Jay Lohmann

Alva’s Wheeler Brothers Grain Manager Jay Lohmann said 40 percent of their customers’ wheat was released by insurance. “There will probably be more.”

“Thank goodness for crop insurance,” Lohmann said.

A lot of farmers were able to swath and bale their released wheat when it was still green. Others had their cattle graze off the crop, Lohmann explained. “Now it’s too late to do either.” He said the alternative is to burn it off and start over for the next planting season. Many of Wheeler’s customers are planting summer crops – lots of feed and milo. “Most everyone needs hay for the winter.”

“Fertilizer costs have tripled and fuel has at least doubled,” Lohmann said. “This is not good for us or our customers. Times are tough right now but we’ll work through it.”

Talking optimistically, Lohmann said, “The northern half of Woods County and into southern Kansas around Kiowa they have some good crops.”

Total production over the US is down – mainly worldwide. He said that’s contributing to the record-breaking increased wheat and other grain prices.

For those farmers who fortunately have wheat to cut, Lohmann said, “We hope everyone has a safe and happy harvest.”

Dacoma Coop Manager Jake Kelln said ‘We Were One Rain Away’

“Dacoma will be really down this year,” Dacoma Co-op Manager Jake Kelln said. “We were one rain away from a really, really good crop in April.” Tuesday morning when speaking to the Newsgram, he said, “Since last night it’s rained three inches and still coming down.” That will be good for the Milo already planted and the soybeans that will be.

Despite the anticipated low wheat yields, Kelln said farmers are electing to cut their wheat whether they hire custom cutters or with their own machines. They can hopefully sell their wheat at the more than doubled price (\$12) from a year ago. Farmers are also interested in retaining seed wheat so they have the grain to plant next fall.

Dacoma’s elevator locations in Freedom, Waynoka and Mooreland have also suffered with the drought Kelln said. But he said wheat fields over at their Jet location “look like an average crop. There will be some 40 bushel wheat at Jet.”

Kelln anticipates the wheat decent enough to cut at Dacoma will have yields in the low teens to twenties. “I hope I’m wrong,” Kelln said. However, he said, “With the price, it’s worth cutting.”

Burlington and Kiowa Grain

Managers Unavailable for Comment

Although several cooperative managers in this article said the wheat in the Burlington and Kiowa, Kansas, area have some of the best looking wheat this time, the Newsgram could not get comments.

Both managers were out-of-town Monday and Tuesday. That is Burlington Co-op Manager Robbie Newman. David Gaddis is the new manager of O.K. Grain in Kiowa.

Employment Opportunity

Alfalfa County Sheriff’s Department is accepting applications for part time jailer position. Hours and days vary. Pay is \$12.50/hr. Duties include but not limited to:

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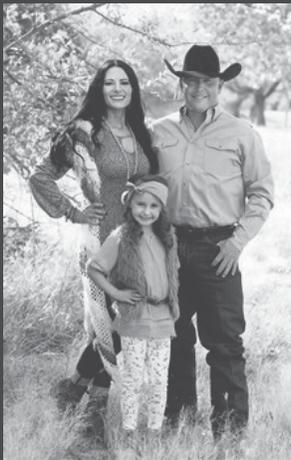
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BURLINGTON CLASS OF 2022 HAS SOME SMART GIRLS – Imagine a class with three valedictorians and two salutatorians. Well, Burlington’s graduating Class of 2022 does. Here they are, shown with commencement speaker Tiffany (Rieger) Kippenberger: (from left) salutatorians McKenzie Olson and Karlie Heatherman; Kippenberger; Valedictorians Kayli Stewart, Nancy Klippenstein and Savannah Granados. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*

Tiffany (Rieger) Kippenberger tells BHS graduates ‘Never Lose Your Sense of Hope’

By Yvonne Miller

“It does not seem possible that I sat in those very chairs nine years ago. At that time I never thought I’d become a surgeon,” BHS alumnae Tiffany Rieger Kippenberger told the graduating Class of 2022.

This was at the Burlington High School Commencement the evening of May 13. Nine seniors graduated in their purple robes and mortar boards as they walked down the aisle to the traditional Pomp and Circumstance. This was Superintendent Kevin Brown’s first year to hand diplomas to BHS grads.

The class of nine had three

valedictorians – Savannah Granados, Nancy Klippenstein and Kayli Stewart. The two class salutatorians were Karlie Heatherman and McKenzie Olson.

Other graduates include Dylan Hurst, Silvery Kiwia, Makayla McCullough and Jared Peffly.

As Kippenberger began her address to the graduates, she said, “It’s hard to believe I’ll enter my residency in general surgery in June. I want to tell you how Burlington helped me prepare for this opportunity.”

The day after she gave the commencement address at Burlington, Kippenberger graduated from medical

school in the top 10 percent of her class at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Joining the U.S. Army, she recently promoted to the rank of Captain, and is a recipient of the Army Health Professions Scholarship.

Growing up in rural Oklahoma, “I learned success requires hard work,” she said and advised the graduates to “control what you can control.” She also said, “Every career path requires hard work, grit and determination.”

She told of the added pressure when she decided to join army around medical school. Her career requires four years of undergrad, four years of medical school and then 5 to 6 years of residency.

Kippenberger reminded the graduates, “The world doesn’t owe you anything. Learn from the examples around you. Don’t wish for it, don’t whine about it, work for it.”

She complimented the Burlington community for being “filled with tough, hard working people.”

Loving to play basketball as a Lady Elk, Kippenberger spoke of her beloved

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May God Bless You. Have an enjoyable and safe weekend!

See **BHS Page 14**



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1545	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting Land - Lodge - Springs & Creeks	\$2,999,000	NEW
1035	Barber Co, KS	Hunting & Grazing Land Pond & Creek	\$2,277,000	NEW
475	Barber Co, KS	Hunting, Grazing, Cropland w/Pond	\$878,750	NEW
314	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting and Grazing with Pond	\$533,800	NEW
156	Woods Co, OK	Res/Comm Development near Alva	\$499,000	NEW
320	Beaver Co, OK	Native Pasture Grazing/Hunting	\$336,000	NEW
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255	Ripley Co, MO	40-acre Private Lake & Improvements	\$1,390,000	
150	Sumner Co, KS	Development/Cropland/River Clearwater	\$879,900	
.76	Alva, OK	Other Place Restaurant Bar&Grill	\$450,000	
40	Barber Co, KS	Hunting land with HOUSE	\$200,000	Pending
405	Ottawa Co, OK	High Yield Cropland in Welch, Oklahoma	\$1,700,000	Pending
280	Barber Co, KS	Hunting Pond Trees House	\$744,000	Pending
120	Ottawa Co, OK	Income Producing, Corn-Alfalfa, Oil&Gas	\$900,000	Pending
80	Barber Co, KS	Hunting Creek Trees & Canyons	\$208,000	SOLD
194	Kingman Co, KS	Hunting Sections 8&9-30S-7W	\$399,900	SOLD
200	Woodward Co, OK	Hunting Land w/Income Wind Towers	\$395,000	SOLD
11,375	McIntosh Co, OK	FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$19,900,000	SOLD
320	Woods Co, OK	Grassland Sec. 19-25N-13W	\$550,000	SOLD
897	Kingfisher Co, OK	8 Farms LAND AUCTION	\$2,548,772	SOLD
360	Lawrence Co, AR	25/ac Private Lake w/house & Hunting	\$1,295,000	SOLD
660	Barber Co, KS	Hunting on Little Bear Creek	\$825,000	SOLD
525	Wayne Co, MO	135/ac Private Lake - Hardwood Timber	\$2,690,000	SOLD
363	Kingman Co, KS	Lies in Sections 5&8-30S-10W	\$1,200,000	SOLD
275	Kingman Co, KS	Turn Key Recreational Property w/Lodge	\$749,999	SOLD
470	Major Co, OK	Hunting on Cimarron River	\$790,000	SOLD
1335	Barber Co, KS	Excellent Gyp Hill Hunting Sun City	\$2,100,000	SOLD
6300	Barber Co, KS	Medicine River Hunting Ranch	\$11,000,000	SOLD

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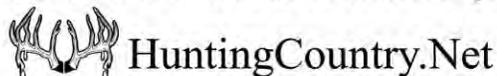
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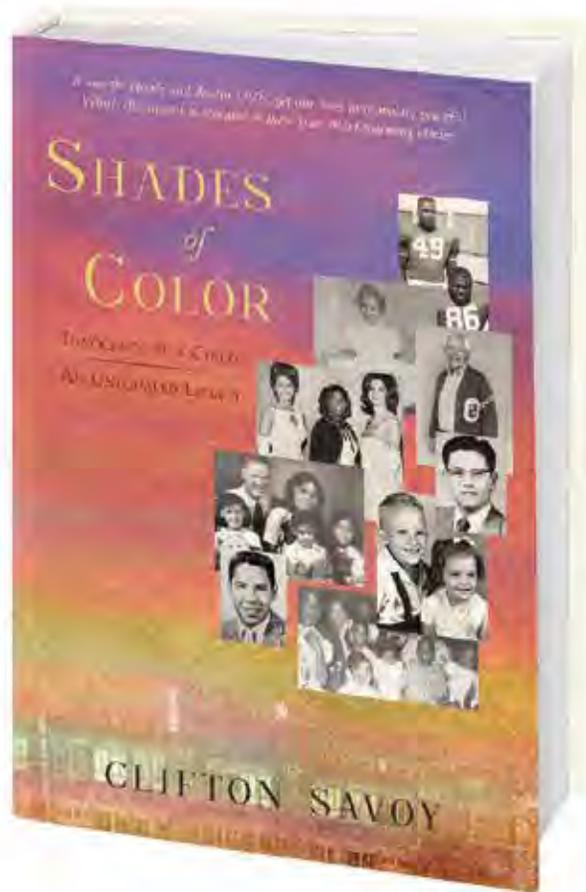
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From Page 10 **BHS**

Coach Pruitt and the intense drills and training she required of her players.

She said the intensity of Coach Pruitt made her understand “you can handle more than you realize.”

For example, Kippenberger said, “Medical school is like drinking from a fire hydrant.” Feeling overwhelmed, she learned to prioritize and made it through.

Telling how she survives difficult situations, Kippenberger said she thinks of this quote from famous poet Robert Frost which says, “The best way out is always through.”

She advised the graduates to “Try something outside of your comfort zone.” She described entering the Operating Room (OR) as “terrifying for the first time. Now it’s one of my favorite places in the world.” This made her recall her FFA advisor Mr. Bradshaw who entered her in poultry judging the day of the contest and she had never judged poultry. “Talk about terrifying. Those experiences – being in an uncomfortable situation – forces you to learn to improvise and think on your feet.

“Don’t buy into the world’s sudden obsession of safe spaces, shutting down any speech or opinion that makes you uncomfortable. Step outside your comfort zone.”

A saying in the OR is “All bleeding stops eventually,” Kippenberger said after three months of intense residency auditions.

“I had hope,” she said. She told about a “hope” experiment done at Harvard in the 1950s. Rats were put in water. Some drowned. But the ones that were taken out, dried and allowed to rest before being put back in the water survived “because they had hope.”

“Never lose your sense of hope, just keep swimming. All bleeding stops eventually. Get back up and try again,” Kippenberger told the graduates.

Recalling all the extra hours she put in to practicing basketball, sometimes in the gym alone, she expressed her devastation when the Lady Elks came close but did not win state. She admitted being “heartbroken,” then playing at Southwestern College, the team made it to Elite 8 of the national NAIA tournament.

“The hardships I faced before turned into something far greater. I wouldn’t change a thing,” she said. “My point is you are going to fail. You have no idea what God has waiting around the corner for you if you will just continue to trust Him and let Him guide you.”

In conclusion Kippenberger said, “I have so many precious memories from here. I hope you are proud to be graduating from Burlington. Remember, as you graduate work hard, step outside your comfort zone, get back up after you fall, remember you can handle whatever life throws at you, don’t forget the values instilled in you from this community.”

From Page 6 **Freedom**

this year it will be \$40,000. “We have no choice; they’re the only ones in the state” to offer this insurance, said Superintendent Burgess.

The board voted to apply for 2022-2023 temporary appropriations. “That will start us out for July 1 so we can do business,” explained Superintendent Freida Burgess.

The board also approved a contract with Gabbart Communication to maintain the 2023 Freedom Eagle website.

Other Board Businesses

The board approved the consent agenda, consisting of minutes of past meetings; the treasurer’s report; encumbrances for general, building and child nutrition funds; signing warrants for general, building, and child nutrition funds; and

the activity fund expenditure report, all ordinary monthly reports. The consent agenda also included renewing the

OSSBA membership, the OSSBA policy maintenance service subscription, and the agreement with OSSBA Employment Services. Also approved in the consent agenda were the agreements with Alcohol and Drug Testing Inc. and Chas. W. Carroll P.A., and a long list of updated and new policies.

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Obituaries

KEVIN CY IRWIN

Kevin Cy Irwin, 54, was born March 11, 1968, in Enid, Oklahoma, to parents Larry and Patricia Haley Irwin, and passed away unexpectedly on May 18, 2022. He resided in Cleo Springs, Oklahoma, until his parents moved to the farm west of Aline in 1973, then moved to Aline, Oklahoma, in 1985. Kevin was a member of the Aline Christian Church. He attended Aline-Cleo Elementary School in Cleo Springs and high school in Aline and graduated in 1986. He was a Boy's State Delegate and received Citizen of the Day and the honored H.V. Thornton Citizenship Award while attending Boy's State. He also obtained the State Farmer Degree in FFA the year he graduated. Kevin attended Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee and graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree and was certified as a HVAC Contractor in 1989.

He was united in marriage to Tracy Holloway on March 29, 1991, and from this union they were blessed with a son, Joshua Cole (29), and a daughter, Jordan Paige (28). On August 27, 2010, Kevin married the love of his life, Katie Joe Fuqua, and they were blessed with daughter Kassie Joe (13) and son Jacob Cole (11).

Kevin grew up in rural Aline in a farming and custom harvesting family. He learned at an early age how to drive a pickup, tractor and combine, just peeking through the steering wheel when moving vehicles from one field to another. The first 20 summers of his life were spent on the road with the family custom harvesting crew, where he picked up his mechanical ability to "fix" things, and his people skills while farming and traveling. He was a people person and learned how to communicate with older people from his experience on the harvest.

After high school, Kevin moved to Okmulgee to attend OSU-Tech. He worked for a peanut farmer while attending college and would come back to Aline when he could to help with the cattle and farming. After college he went to work for Dense Mechanical in



Enid, Oklahoma. He loved farming and running cattle and had always hoped to do this when he returned home, but those plans changed after his dad, Larry, passed away in 1994. In 2000 Kevin ventured into his own business, Irwin Heat and Air, where he served his local and nearby communities, family and friends. In 2010, his son, Josh, joined him in the business for several years.

Kevin's roots were planted in Carmen, Oklahoma, where, he became very involved in the Carmen community serving as deputy mayor and also serving on the town council. Kevin served as chief, assistant chief, lieutenant and as first responder on the Volunteer Fire Department in Carmen over his 20-plus year career. His glass was always half full. He never hesitated to stop and help anyone in need, and he would always take time to stop and talk.

Kevin and Katie's life has revolved around service to others, including taking care of their town and the town's people and serving their Fire Department and the department's families. Kevin took great ownership in the Annual 5th of July Fireworks celebration in Carmen. He was like a kid in a candy store lighting them up and he was so proud to help with one of the BEST shows in the state of Oklahoma.

Kevin and Katie shared over 17 years together. He, too, was the love of Katie's life and her dancing partner forever. They were looking forward to moving out to grandma's farm in the upcoming months. Family was very important to Kevin, and he loved getting together, especially at the holidays. He was a very proud dad and grandpa and very involved in the kids' school, sports and 4-H/FFA activities.

He taught Josh every skill set that he, himself, possessed to be a successful tradesman, and all the people skills he needed to serve them, and maybe, just maybe, a touch of his humor. He was Paige's summer league softball coach and taught her how to steal bases to offset her getting walked all the time because of her short stature. Kevin never let her believe that short was limiting and she lives big, because of this. She gave Kevin his most precious title of grandpa to Noah and Eden.

Kevin became involved in showing goats and pigs with Kassie Joe and

Jake and was very instrumental in teaching them the responsibility that went into having animals and the art of showmanship. He never missed a Daddy-Daughter dance with Kassie and loved to see her face light up when they went to each one. Jake was his dad's go-getter, always willing to pitch in and help where needed, especially on the farm. He might have picked up his dad's accident-prone nature. Every one of his children inherited his work-ethic, and his giving and helping nature.

Survivors include wife, Katie Joe and children, Kassie Joe and Jake; son, Josh Irwin; daughter, Paige Irwin Dillard (Tony); two grandchildren, Noah and Eden Dillard; mother, Patricia Irwin; sister, Kimberly Beam; mother-in-law, Jerri Joe Smith (Paul); father-in-law, John Fuqua (Paula); brothers-in law; Buck Beam, Scott Robinson (Chelsea), Charles Woods (Erica), John Russell (Nicole); grandmother, Betty Joe Weber; aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews and numerous other family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his dad, Larry Irwin; sister, Kristie Robinson; grandparents, Virgil and Ila Irwin and Calvin and Ozella Haley; Butch and Duke, his beloved German shepherds.

Kevin's funeral service was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the Aline-Cleo High School Gymnasium in Aline with Minister Polly Young officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Lanman Funeral Home, Inc. of Helena. Online condolences may be made at lanmanmemorials.com.

Memorials may be made to Carmen Fire Department through the funeral home.

CAROL DELIGHT (MELTON) TALLEY



Carol Delight Melton was born on December 16, 1931, to (William) Nay and Harriet Melton in Sturgis, Oklahoma. The family moved to Alva when Carol was four years old.

After graduating from Alva High School as the class valedictorian she earned a bachelor's degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State University where she

See Obits Page 22

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NEW - 160 Acres UNDER CONTRACT - Excellent cropland (primarily Hillister Silty Clay Loam & Tillman Silty Clay Loam Soils), this farm has a new fence on the west side. Rural water is available. SE¼ - 12-26-15, W.I.M., Woods County, OK. **PRICE: \$330,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres UNDER CONTRACT, of which 149 Acres is excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek Silt Loam and Wavoka Sandy Loam soils), the balance being 11 Acres that are enrolled in CRP. This farm would make an excellent farm for cattle or grain production. It has new 5-wire fences on the west and south sides. NE¼ - 1-27-13, W.I.M., Woods County, OK **PRICE: \$400,000.00**

NEW - 1.54 Acres with 3 Morton Buildings
1.) 60'x81' Machine Shed with cement floor
2.) 48'x63' Shop Building with cement floor, office, and bathroom
3.) 36'x54' Three-sided Horse Barn - Located just west of the water tower at 202 W. Monroe Ave. in Cherokee, Okla. **PRICE: \$125,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres UNDER CONTRACT - Excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek Silt Loam and Grant Silt Loam Soils), this farm has a windmill. 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 - 160 Acres UNDER CONTRACT - Excellent cropland (primarily Meno Loamy Fine Sandy Loam & Grant Silt Loam Soils), this farm is located north of Alva, Okla. NW¼ - 22-29-14, W.I.M., Woods County. **PRICE: \$370,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres UNDER CONTRACT with excellent improvements - Excellent grassland, good 5-wire fence, wire matt corrals, rural water. Improvements include a 2,552 sq. ft. home with new metal roof, completely gutted and ready for finish construction. New 45'x60' shed with 12'x12' screened porch; new 45'x60' shed with 12'x12' screened porch; new 45'x60' shed with 12'x12' screened porch; insulated with interior wall; Generac Generator 25KW; RV hookup with concrete pad, deck, and stairs; metal shed 50'x75' with 24'x75' lean-to. NW¼ - 32-26-15, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. 3 miles west of Avard, OK, and ½ mile south to the homesite. **PRICE: \$525,000.00**

NEW - 560 Acres SOLD - 7 Acres of water pond, new steel corrals, new 5-wire fences, native pasture, rural water at corrals, 4 other ponds. SE¼ - 13-25-15, NE¼, N½ SE¼, E½ NW, N/2 SW - 24-25-15, Woods County, Okla **PRICE: \$675,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres SOLD - 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 - 320 Acres SOLD of which 114 Acres is good cropland (primarily Buford Silt Loam & Woodard Complex Soils), and the balance being 206 Acres of good grassland. This farm has new 5-wire fences, some cross fences, three ponds, and two solar pumps. Rural water is available. E½ - 10-28-14, Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$525,000.00**

NEW - 316 Acres SOLD - Grant County, Okla - 15 miles west of Medford, Okla on St. Hwy 11. 205 Acres is excellent 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 SOLD Crop and Grassland - SW¼ - 33-29-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 128 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Grant Silt Loam & Silt Loam Soils), and the balance being 32 Acres of grass and trees. Excellent hunting potential. Watered by a solar pump. **PRICE: \$390,000.00**

NEW - 315 Acres SOLD of which 208 Acres is excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek Silt Loam, Dale Silt Loam), and the balance being 107 Acres of excellent grassland. Improvements include a 1,200 sq. ft. home, 50'x100' shed - like new, 32' x 60' shop w/ 16" lean-to, steel corrals, cements bunks with loafing shed, three overhead bins. N½ - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$1,050,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres SOLD - Excellent cropland, located SW of Alva, OKLA. NW¼ - 21-26-14, W.I.M., Woods County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$320,000.00**

NEW - 40 Acres SOLD - Excellent cropland, Dale Silt Loam & Grant Silt Loam Soils. Located ½ mile south of Aline, OK. NW¼ SW¼ - 1-23-12. **NEW PRICE: \$65,000.00**

NEW - 222 Acres UNDER CONTRACT - 206 Acres of good cropland (Meno Loamy Fine Sand and Nobscot sand soils), the balance being 16 Acres of excellent grassland in three locations. Has excellent hunting potential. Located 1/2 mile south and 2/4 west of Ringwood, OK. W½ SE¼, and the SW¼ less 18 Acre tract in 29-23-10, W.I.M., Major County, Okla. **PRICE: \$440,000.00**

NEW - 80 Acres UNDER CONTRACT - Excellent deer hunting - Boone and Crockett buck. Located on the south side of the Rock River. If you want to kill a big buck on a small acreage, you just found it. N½ NE ¼ - 28-29-15 **NEW PRICE: \$120,000.00**

NEW - 169 Acres SOLD - 123 Acres cropland, 146 Acres excellent grassland. Pond Creek silt loam and Quinlan W.I.M. Loam soils. Located on the Okla-KS stateline, Hardtner, KS. SW¼ - 16-35S-12 South of the 6th PM. Barber County, KS. **PRICE: \$375,000.00**

160 Acres - Freedom, Oklahoma - Excellent deer hunting - 42 Acres SOLD cropland, excellent grass, lots of trees with Moccasin Creek running through the property. 6 miles northwest of Freedom, OK. SW¼-32-28-18 W.I.M. **PRICE: \$245,000.00**

80 Acres w/ improvements SOLD This tract consists of 80 Acres of native grass, a nice home, a starter yard, multiple outbuildings, and much more. W½ SW¼ - 3-26-14, Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$250,000.00**

SOLD - 915 Acres - A sportsman's dream - Big Bucks - Turkey - Ducks - Borders Cimarron River in Freedom - Excellent native pasture, rough woods, deep canyons, 5 ponds, Woods County, Okla. Legal: E½ NW¼, Lot 2, E½ SE¼ & NE¼ - 28-27-18, NW NW, W/2 SW & SW NW - 27-27-18, Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$1,100,000.00**

SOLD - "A sportsman and cattleman's dream" - Abundant wildlife: Deer, turkey, and excellent grassland and live water. Tract 1 - 281 Acres Nature and Beauty at its finest. Legal: SW¼ & the E½ & the SW¼ NW¼ of 30-27-8, W.I.M., Grant County, Okla. **PRICE: \$700,000.00**

SOLD - 320 Acres - Excellent grassland - It has excellent sandhill grass, good 5-wire fences, and watered by a windmill. There is also excellent hunting on this property. Legal: S½ - 14-27-9, Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$560,000.00**

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NEW - SOLD - 160 Acres Cropland - SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 3-25-14, Woods Co., Okla. This tract consists of 158 Acres of good cropland **PRICE: \$384,000.00**

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

NEW - SOLD - 80 Acres Cropland - S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 3-25-14, Woods Co., Okla. This 80 Acres is all cropland. **PRICE: \$180,000.00**

NEW - SOLD - 160 Acres - All cropland, new 5-wire fence, new steel corals, 312 ft. cement bunk line, 2 Ritchie Waterers, Rural water available. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 10-25-14 **PRICE: \$375,000.00**

NEW-SOLD - 160 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 14-25-14, Woods Co., Okla. This tract consists of 158 Acres of good cropland with great improvements. **PRICE: \$400,000.00**

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

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

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

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

SOLD - 320 Ac. - N $\frac{1}{2}$ -22-27-13 Woods CO., OK **PRICE: \$900,000.00**

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

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

SOLD - 160 Ac - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -33-27-13 Woods Co., OK **PRICE: \$500,000.00**

SOLD - 320 Ac - E $\frac{1}{2}$ -32-27-13 Woods Co., OK **PRICE: \$1,100,000.00**

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

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

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Commercial Property: Between Shepherds & Days Inn Motel on Hwy 64 East of Alva - 3.15 Acres. **PRICE: \$300,000.00**

5.33 Lots (1.86 Acres) - Located on the West Edge of Alva on Hwy 64. Country Club Heights Addition, Great Location for Commercial or Residential Properties. **NEW Price: \$175,000**

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

RESIDENTIAL

SOLD - 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home on 6.95 Acres (Mol.), 2,140 sq. ft. main level, plus 288 sq. ft. finished basement. 44884 Woodlake Drive, Alva. **PRICE: \$280,000**

SOLD - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & an office. 1,433 sq. ft. Two car attached garage, fenced backyard w/ storage shed. Many updates! Great closets & storage! 902 Flynn, Alva. **PRICE \$150,000**

SOLD - 3 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom home. 1,350 sq. ft. One car attached garage with basement underneath. Patio, 1100 Sq Ft barn with electric. Fenced backyard. Sits on 2 lots plus an additional tract of land to the South. .74 acres total. 902 Apache, Alva. **PRICE: \$149,000**

SOLD - 2 bed/1 bath home, 1,073 sq. ft. with attached carport & 1 car detached garage. Fenced backyard. Lot extends beyond fence. Newer flooring, new heat/air window units, updated bathroom, large utility room, spacious kitchen with newer appliances. Refrigerator, stove, washer & dryer included. 17 Maple, Alva. **PRICE: \$45,000**

SOLD - 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home. 1,513 sq. ft. Stove, washer & dryer included. CH/A, hardwood floors. 24x30 shop/garage with electricity. 604 Hart, Alva. **PRICE \$73,000**

SOLD - 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1,224 sq. ft. One car detached garage & fenced backyard. Many updates! New HVAC, water heater, flooring, new kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, remodeled bathroom, electrical & plumbing updates. Must see! 412 Noble, Alva. **\$85,000**

SOLD - 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, 1,850 sq. ft. New covered patio & fenced backyard. Many updates! Beautifully remodeled home. 1831 W. Maple, Alva. **\$190,000**

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

NEW: 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 3,042 sq. ft. Den with fireplace. Living room. Laundry room. Formal dining or office. Breakfast area. Large kitchen. Pantry. Large master suite. Remodeled in the last 5 years: Kitchen & Bathrooms, New flooring, granite countertops, new fixtures, new lighting, new doors & windows, new privacy fence, storm shelter, covered patio & more! **NICE!!** 1802 Cherry, Alva. **PRICE: \$325,000**



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,101 sq. ft. Living room, dining room, den, laundry room, 2 fireplaces. Perfect starter home or investment property! 216 E Barnes, Alva. **PRICE: \$45,000**



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



NEW: 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 3,000 sq. ft. Attached garage and attached carport. Beautiful updated home! Open kitchen, living room & dining. Granite. Walk-out basement. Den.

Fireplace. Laundry room. Master Suite. Fenced yard. Shed. Lot sits on over an acre. Great neighborhood! 1812 Skyview Dr., Alva. **PRICE: \$288,000**

3-4 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, 1,820 sq. ft. Open concept, spacious kitchen, granite counter-tops, new flooring, laundry room, fenced backyard, deck w/ electricity & wired for TV, storage shed. 1320 Barnes, Alva. **NEW PRICE: \$149,000**



2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom on main level (1073 sq ft) with the option to complete the partially finished basement for an additional 2 bedrooms & 1 more bathroom (879 sq ft basement). 1 car detached garage, currently a nice workshop. Covered patio and fenced backyard. 807 Locust, Alva. **PRICE: \$88,000**



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From Page 18 **Obits**

became a longtime alumni association member.

She married Donald Talley and celebrated 59 years of marriage. To this union were born two children, Michael and Barbara.

Carol taught high school home economics for two years before becoming a homemaker, substitute teacher and farm wife.

She enjoyed being active in the community through HDU, Jolly 20, Country Girls chorus, ABBD Senior Citizens, and as a longtime member of the Order of Eastern Star, where she served multiple terms as Worthy Matron. For almost 50 years, she was a member of and played piano for the Amorita Community Church, then attended the Driftwood Christian Church.

Carol is preceded in death by her husband, Donald Talley; parents, Harriet (Criswell) and (William) Nay Melton; sisters, Ruth Cosby, Ella Brehmer, Esther Kessinger, and Alice Dotter;

Donald's parents, Paul Leroy and Alvina (Maltbie) Talley, and cousins-in-law, Theron Rucker and (Iva Rucker) Gates.

She is survived by son Michael Talley and wife Jeanie; daughter Barbara Duerksen and husband Noel; grandsons Matthew Talley, Joshua Talley, Jonathan Talley, Aaron Duerksen and Nathan Duerksen.

Funeral service for Carol will be Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Driftwood Christian Church with burial in Byron-Amorita Cemetery. There will be viewing with family present at Lanman Funeral Home in Kiowa, Kansas, on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Arrangements are by Lanman Funeral Home, Inc. Online condolences may be made at www.lanmanmemorials.com.

Memorials may be made to Byron-Amorita Fire Department or Driftwood Christian Church through the funeral home.

Lawsuit accuses 3 automakers and parts maker in air bag case

By Tom Krisher

DETROIT (AP) — A class action lawsuit is accusing three automakers and a parts manufacturer of knowingly selling vehicles containing air bag inflators that are at risk of exploding. Two deaths and at least four injuries have been linked to such explosions.

The federal lawsuit, filed Tuesday in San Francisco, names ARC Automotive Inc. of Knoxville, Tennessee, which made the inflators and sold them to air bag manufacturers. The air bag makers, in turn sold them to General Motors, Ford and Volkswagen, which are named in the lawsuit, too.

The five plaintiffs are the owners of vehicles with ARC inflators who contend the defective air bag parts were not disclosed when they made their purchases.

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which has been investigating ARC inflators for nearly seven years without a resolution, estimates that there are 51 million on U.S. roads. That's somewhere between 10% and 20% of all passenger vehicles.

Yet most drivers have no conclusive way to determine whether their vehicle contains an ARC inflator. Even if they were to tear apart the steering wheel assembly, the internal parts might bear the markings only of the automaker or the air bag manufacturer, not the inflator maker.

"You could have a ticking time bomb in your lap and you've got no way of knowing," said Frank Melton, a Florida lawyer who is among those filing the new lawsuit.



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TWO SOUTH BARBER TRACK STARS COMPETE AT STATE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY!!

Good Luck Grace and Ruston!!!!!!

South Barber graduates Cantrell and Erikson compete at state Friday and Saturday

By Yvonne Miller



Grace Cantrell and Ruston Erikson, who both just graduated from South Barber High School in Kiowa, Kan., earned the right to compete in the State 1A Track Meet at Wichita State University this Friday and Saturday. At regional competition Erikson won the Shot Put with a throw of 45'8". At state he competes Friday evening at 6:30.

Cantrell qualified for three events at the regional track meet that she'll compete in at state. Her events are throughout the day Saturday. She placed 3rd in the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:54. That's at 1:25 p.m., Saturday.

Cantrell set a new South Barber school record in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:26.26 that qualified her for state. That is at 5:10 p.m.

Cantrell is also state bound in the long jump. She placed 3rd at the Regional Meet with a jump of 16'3". Saturday she competes at 11:30 a.m.

Ruston's dad Clint Erikson is the head SBHS Track Coach. About Grace and Ruston he said, "I am very proud of both. It is always good to see their hard work and determination result in accomplishing goals. Grace has had the goal of breaking the 800m Run school record since she was a freshman. Ruston had a goal of making it to state in shot put the last couple of years. I am happy for both that they proved to be among the top 16 1A athletes in the state within their respective events."

GRACE IS STATEBOUND IN THREE TRACK EVENTS – After qualifying in three events for the state track meet, recent South Barber Grace Cantrell stands with her proud dad Matt Cantrell at regional competition.



RUSTON WINS REGIONAL TRACK SHOT PUT, STATEBOUND – One super proud athlete and his family is recent South Barber graduate Ruston Erikson who won the regional shot put. He's statebound and competes Friday. He's shown with mom and dad Clint and Amy and sister Tanith.

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CONGRATULATIONS



NEW SB FFA OFFICERS – The 2022-2023 South Barber FFA officer team was announced at the annual parent/member banquet a few weeks ago. Officers pictured (L to R) Reagan Grieve, secretary, Jessica Jahay, president, Bryce Duvall, treasurer, Tyten Courson, reporter, Cash Tomberlin, vice president.



A FLOWER AND HUG FOR MOM – SB Class Salutatorian Avery Grieve presents a flower to her mother Kristi Grieve during graduation. Always an emotional moment. Photo by Yvonne Miller



GETTING HER DIPLOMA FROM DAD – It's not every day that the class valedictorian gets her diploma from her dad that just happens to be president of the school board. That's the case for Clare Pollock and her dad Mark at South Barber's commencement Sunday. Photo by Yvonne Miller



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY – Don't you imagine there's some tears flowing as Danielle Jewell receives a flower and hug from her son Gaitlin on his graduation day? It's a South Barber tradition. Photo by Yvonne Miller

SBHS BOYS TENNIS COACH DANIELLE JEWELL COMMENTS ON HER KID'S STATE PERFORMANCE

Xander Myers went into the state tennis meet with a record of 19-6, earning him a first round bye. He then faced a tough opponent from Salina Sacred Heart who went on to place 11th in the state. Xander's second match was against a talented player Ellinwood. It was a great match-up and Xander just fell short with final score of 6-9 in a 9-game pro set. Myers represented South Barber as a sophomore, and he will no doubt make more state appearances in the next couple years.

Caden Rathgeber and Tony Vasquez started the state tennis meet with a twin duo fro Smoky Valley. These brothers had a strong connection on the court but our South Barber team fought hard to get the first round win in a tiebreaker. The next matchup for Caden and Tony was even tougher. They fell short to some very seasoned tennis players from Wichita Collegiate who then went on to the state championship match. Rathgeber and Vasquez bounced back with a great win over the Scott Community team with a score of 9-5 to keep their state meet battle going. That victory put them a match away from a top 12 medal finish. Caden and Tony got back on the court for the 4th time that day, about 8 hours from the start of their first match. They fell short in that final set against a pair from Hesston. The finality of their senior season was emotional for all of us as I have coached them since their friendship year. We have all come a long way since then and their leadership will be greatly missed on the team.



South Barber Tennis players who made it to state are: Xander Myers, Caden Rathgeber and Tony Vasquez.

The State Tennis meet is a very grand stage and I was absolutely honored to take my whole varsity team to Kansas City to experience the entire atmosphere together. I was so very proud to be announced as the South Barber High School Boys Tennis Coach.

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Carl's Capitol Comments

Rural fire departments, conservation efforts receive more funding in appropriations bill, if signed

By Rep. Carl Newton

We sent a \$9.7 billion general appropriations bill to the governor last week. He has until Thursday at midnight to take action on the measure.

This budget contains a lot of stuff for the people back home in rural Oklahoma.

As chair of the House Appropriations & Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Regulatory Services, my portion of the budget includes a \$5,000 increase for each rural fire department and an increase of funds for the departments' 80/20 grants for purchases of equipment and other needs to better serve their areas.

We also added funding to help our veterinary colleges as they train future veterinarians to take care of animal needs throughout Oklahoma.

Conservation districts will receive additional funding for salaries and resources. These districts manage farm and range land and enhance natural resources to improve Oklahoma. Just a side note: if it wasn't for the great conservation techniques we have now with the weather we have experienced, likely we would be experiencing dust bowls right now.

Rural water districts will receive federal relief funds for various projects to improve water and wastewater infrastructure as well as to improve deficient dams. Rural water systems are getting some much needed help with \$25 million appropriated for grants to small districts – under 7,000 population – and \$25 million for large districts – over 7,000 – to design better infrastructure.

We also passed a bill that will allow the Oklahoma Historical Society to bond \$26 million to update museums throughout the state, including our museum at Fort Supply.

Additional rural funding comes in the form of \$30 million to the Rural Economic Area Partnership Program, which makes grants available to rural communities throughout the state to help with projects that otherwise would go unfunded. These can include road repairs, equipment purchases, utility infrastructure, and much more.

The Legislature also reserved \$250 million to help retrofit areas in rural Oklahoma such as industrial parks to help recruit economic development megaprojects in the future.

There's plenty else in the budget such as funding for education, transportation, health and mental health care and public safety as well as savings, but I wanted to highlight some of the things that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Also last week, the Legislature voted to convene a special session to run concurrently with the regular session. We will adjourn this session to a call of the chair, which will allow us to come back at some point during the interim to act on final passage of bills to disburse the state's \$1.8 billion portion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

We formed a Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding and took public input as well as project proposals on how best to spend this money. We want to make sure we maintain legislative oversight of how these funds are appropriated, and the special session will allow us to do this.

As always, 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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NWOSU is seeking a Mechanic/General Maintenance Employee- 12 month position

Duties and Responsibilities: Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of motor pool vehicles and maintenance equipment. Responsible for diagnosis of issues within the motor pool maintenance vehicles and ordering parts to be replaced and repaired. Assist in repairing appliances; erecting partitions and installing ceilings; painting walls and woodwork. Change air-conditioner filters, unplug drains, repair faucets, replace fluorescent light tubes. Repair equipment and do building maintenance. Occasionally operate trucks, forklifts, front end loaders, and mechanized equipment incidental to regular work assignments. Required to do heavy lifting which may exceed 100 pounds. Perform job-related work as required and assigned, and assist in emergencies when called upon.

Will be required to live in the campus maintenance home located next to physical plant facility. This position will be designated as the afterhours call person.

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Senate Review

\$9.7 billion balanced budget approved

By Senator Roland Pederson

With about a week to spare, we successfully passed the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. As required by our state's constitution, we approved a \$9.7 billion balanced budget that utilized our state revenues in a variety of ways – bolstering our savings account, investing in a variety of public safety needs and providing inflation relief for all Oklahomans.

Headlining the 2023 budget is the highest balance of our state's savings account in Oklahoma history. With our deposits from this year's revenues, we'll have \$2.6 billion in the bank to use in future economic downturns. Like many of you, I'm concerned about inflation and the direction of our nation's economy. It's vital that we have sufficient reserves to weather a future economic downturn. We'll still need adequate dollars to invest in our public schools, healthcare, roads and public safety, and our savings will help fund these core services during the next inevitable downturn.

We also made a substantial investment into public safety, giving additional funding for much needed pay raises for a variety of careers. Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troopers will see a 30 percent pay bump, and Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) agents, court reporters and bailiffs will also see a raise.

The Legislature gave additional

funding to the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) to address some of their capital needs, including a new training track, parking lot, lighting and additional personnel. CLEET plays a vital role in public safety across the state, providing peach officer certification for full-time law enforcement officers employed by cities, counties and state agencies here in Oklahoma.

Within public safety funding, we also approved a budget increase for the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBNDCC) as they continue their fight against illegal marijuana grows across the state. The Attorney General's office also received another deposit to go towards fighting against federal overreach we've seen again and again from the Biden administration.

I am proud to co-author House Bill 4464, a part of the budget which creates the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity Fund and deposits \$250 million into the account. This fund will be vital to business development across rural Oklahoma, a win-win for our small towns since we know how supportive our local businesses are in our communities.

The Legislature is very aware of how crippling inflation has been over the last year, and unfortunately, we don't see an end in sight. We wanted to give all Oklahomans some sort of financial

relief in this budget, and we've agreed upon a cash rebate for taxpayers - \$75 for individuals or \$150 for those filing jointly. This rebate will be paid in December. We also reinstated the sales tax exemption on vehicle and truck purchases, which was removed back in 2017 when the state was in desperate need of additional revenue. Reinstating this sales tax exemption will make these large purchases a bit more affordable for Oklahomans needing a new car or truck.

While no budget is perfect, I'm proud of the framework we came to since it addresses important needs right now while still planning for the future.

The Legislature also convened in a special session last week that is running concurrently with our regular session and will continue for the foreseeable future. This special session will allow the Legislature more control over how the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are being spent, ensuring they are used for the projects that have been vetted and approved by the APRA committees. I'll keep you updated as we continue this work throughout the summer.

It's an honor to serve as your voice at our state Capitol, and one I don't take lightly. Please feel free to reach out if there is anything I can help you with. You can contact me at 405-521-5630 or via email at Roland.Pederson@oksenate.gov.

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Montana bars birth certificate changes, even with surgery

By Matthew Brown

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Montana health officials say transgender people can't change their birth certificates even if they undergo gender-confirmation surgery, in defiance of a court order that had blocked the Republican-controlled state's bid to restrict transgender rights.

The state health department said late Monday in an emergency order that it would no longer record the category of "gender" on people's birth certificates, replacing that category with a listing for "sex" that can be changed only in rare circumstances.

Sex is "immutable," according to the order, while gender is a "social... construct" that can change over time.

"Sex is different from gender and an immutable genetic fact, which is not changeable, even by surgery," said the order from Adam Meier, director of Public Health and Human Services.

Only Tennessee, Oklahoma and West Virginia have similar sweeping prohibitions against changes to birth certificates, according to the civil rights group Lambda Legal. Bans in Idaho and Ohio were struck down in 2020, according to the group.

The order came a month after a state judge temporarily blocked enforcement of a law that required transgender people to have undergone a "surgical procedure" before being allowed to change their

gender on their birth certificates.

Judge Michael Moses ruled the law was unconstitutionally vague because it did not specify what procedure must be performed. The law also required transgender people to obtain a court order indicating they had a surgical procedure.

Moses' order forced the state to revert back to a process adopted in 2017 that said transgender residents could apply to change the gender on their Montana birth certificate by filing sworn affidavits with the health department.

But state health officials said the April 21 ruling put them in "an ambiguous and uncertain situation" and led them to craft the temporary emergency order.

The new order exceeds the restrictions on transgender rights imposed by the Republican-dominated state Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Greg Gianforte.

Shawn Reagor with the Montana Human Rights Network said the order was "politically motivated and malicious" and would harm transgender people who want to fully participate in civil society, which includes recognition of their gender.

"It's being validated and seen for who you are. But even more so, it's being able to navigate society and be active in today's world without having a threat of violence or discrimination," Reagor said.

Democratic state lawmakers expressed outrage, calling the order a "blatant abuse of power meant to undermine the checks and balances of our independent courts."

"While this rule is intended to make the lives of our transgender neighbors harder, it impacts all of us by eroding the rights that let us live our lives free from government overreach," said House Minority Leader Kim Abbott and Senate Minority Leader Jill Copenhaver.

According to the order, the sex listing can be changed only if someone's sex is misidentified when they're born or if the sex was wrongly recorded as a result of "a scrivener's error," according to the order.

In response to questions about the new rule, the Department of Public

Health and Human Services said "all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect."

"However," the statement continued, "as noted in the emergency rule, the Department has an obligation to ensure the accuracy of vital records." The agency said its order is consistent with state law and addresses "a critical regulatory gap" while obeying the April court ruling.

Half of the U.S. states, plus the District of Columbia, allow transgender residents to change gender designation on their birth certificates without surgical requirements or court orders, according to the policy organization Movement Advancement Project that supports transgender rights.

Just over a dozen states require surgical intervention for changing gender on birth certificates and such barriers have been challenged in several states, including in Montana by the ACLU of Montana.

Many transgender people choose not to undergo gender-confirmation surgeries. Such procedures are sometimes deemed unnecessary or too expensive, two transgender Montana residents argued in their July 2021 lawsuit challenging the Montana law.

ACLU representatives did not immediately respond to the Montana health department order.

Over the last several years, legislation in numerous states has been aimed at limiting the rights of transgender people, and the new laws are being challenged in court.

Alabama passed a law making it a felony for doctors to prescribe such treatments as gender-confirming puberty blockers and hormones to transgender minors, but a judge has blocked the law.

In Texas, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott ordered child welfare officials to investigate parents of children receiving puberty blockers and other gender-confirming care as potential abuse. That effort was blocked by a judge.

At least a dozen states have recently passed laws to ban transgender girls and women from participating in female sports, most recently Utah.



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US to end Russia's ability to pay international investors

By Ken Sweet and Fatima Hussein

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. will close the last avenue for Russia to pay its billions in debt back to international investors on Wednesday, making a Russian default on its debts for the first time since the Bolshevik Revolution all but inevitable.

The Treasury Department said in a notification that does not plan to renew the license that allowed Russia to keep paying its debtholders through American banks.

Since the first rounds of sanctions, the Treasury Department has given banks a license to process any dollar-denominated bond payments from Russia. That window expires at midnight May 25.

There had already been signs that the Biden administration was unwilling to extend the deadline. At a press conference heading into the Group of Seven finance minister meetings in Koenigswinter, Germany, last week, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the window existed “to allow a period of time for an orderly transition to take place, and for investors to be able to sell securities.”

“The expectation was that it was time-limited,” Yellen said.

Without the license to use U.S. banks to pay its debts, Russia would have no

ability to repay its international bond investors. The Kremlin has been using JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup as its conduits to pay its obligations.

Jay Auslander, a prominent sovereign debt lawyer who previously litigated other debt crises like the one in Argentina, said at this point most of the institutional investors in Russian debts have likely sold their holdings, knowing this deadline is coming. Those who are still holding the debts are either distressed debt investors or those willing to wait to litigate it out over the next few years.

“The majority who wanted out have gotten out. The only issue is finding buyers,” he said.

The Kremlin appears to have foreseen the likelihood that the U.S. would not allow Russia to keep paying on its bonds. The Russian Finance Ministry prepaid two bonds on Friday that were due this month to get ahead of the May 25 deadline.

The next payments Russia will need to make on its debts are due on June 23. Like other Russian debt, those bonds have a 30-day grace period — which would cause default by Russia to be declared by late July, barring the unlikely scenario that the Russia-Ukraine war would come to an end before then.

Investors have been almost certain of Russia going into default for

months now. Insurance contracts that cover Russian debt have priced a 80% likelihood of default for weeks and rating agencies like Standard & Poor's and Moody's have placed the country's debt deep into junk territory.

Russia has not defaulted on its international debts since the 1917 Revolution, when the Russian Empire collapsed and the Soviet Union was created. Russia defaulted on its domestic debts in the late 1990s during the Asian Financial Crisis, but was able to recover from that default with the help of international aid.

A Russian default this time will likely have little-to-minimal impact on the global economy, Auslander said, since Russia has been cut off from global financial markets for months now and investors have been expecting a default. Biden officials have made similar statements.

Once it defaults, the next likely step would be for Russia to turn to U.S., British or European courts to argue that it was forced into default by circumstances beyond its control — a concept in finance known as force majeure — in an effort to restore its standing in global financial markets. It may be difficult to win that argument however, Auslander said, due to the fact that Russia got cut off from financial markets because it chose to invade Ukraine.

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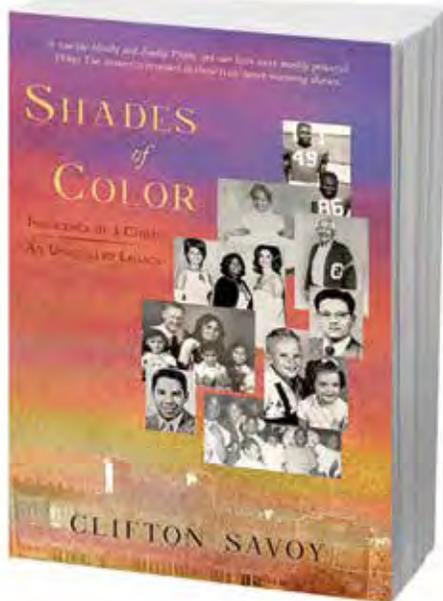


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Date/Time: Friday, May 27th, 3-6 p.m.

Contact: Todd Holder or Sally Eggleston

Author and Northwestern alum, Clifton Savoy, and several other alumni who contributed to the book, will participate in a book signing event to begin the Memorial Day weekend. Many of these contributors are household names in the Alva area. Copies of the book can be left for signing and picked up later if a person cannot be present.

It's about the first people of color on Northwestern's campus and their relationships with a predominately white student base. The setting was in the 1960s, where civil unrest was rampant through the nation, but Alva provided an oasis for these students of color. Tough racial questions are asked which can resonate with us all in 2022.

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 10:00 a.m. - Standing Ovations Dance Studio
 10:30 a.m. - Rachel Spellman Hughes
 11-11:45 a.m. - Vintage Wildflowers
 Noon - Cheyenne Tribal Dancers

12:30 p.m. - Drew Faulkner
 1:00 p.m. - Emma Cline
 1:30 p.m. - Max Ridgway & David Engle
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US safety, savings rules set stage for baby formula shortage

By Matthew Perrone

WASHINGTON (AP) — A massive recall is getting most of the blame for the U.S. baby formula shortage, but experts say the products have long been vulnerable to this type of crisis due to decades-old policies that have allowed a handful of companies to corner the market.

Those government rules — aimed at assuring safe, affordable formula — are getting renewed scrutiny as President Joe Biden's administration rushes to import formula from Europe.

"There's perfectly good and safe baby formula available around the world. We just don't have access to it," said Bindiya Vakil, CEO of Resilinc, a supply chain analytics firm. "We've created this problem by not setting up an infrastructure for imports."

Federal regulators are expected to soon allow Abbott Nutrition to reopen the Michigan plant that's been closed since February due to contamination problems. The factory is the largest of its kind in the U.S. and its shutdown — combined with pandemic-related supply chain problems — hobbled supplies of popular formulas and specialty formulas for children with rare medical conditions.

Lawmakers will hold three hearings on the issue this week, calling on company executives, government regulators and outside experts to testify. The attention could spur changes to government safety and contracting rules that have been in place since the 1980s and favor big U.S. manufacturers that are capable of navigating the complex requirements.

Baby formula is one of the few American products essentially unaffected by globalization, with 98% of the supply manufactured domestically. Four companies account for roughly 90% of the market: Abbott, Reckitt, Nestle and Perrigo, according to industry figures. That consolidation mirrors similar trends across the food industry.

But infant formula wasn't part of a Biden administration initiative last year spotlighting dangerously concentrated industries, including prescription drugs, airlines, hearing aids and internet services.

The Federal Trade Commission announced Tuesday that it has launched an inquiry into the formula shortage, seeking information on any deceptive or fraudulent business practices related to it. The agency said it also aims to shed light on what led to the concentration in the baby formula market and the weak supply chains.

Food experts say strict formula regulations set by the Food and Drug Administration have long limited competition.

Beginning in 1980, Congress gave the FDA authority to rigorously enforce the nutritional content of all formula sold in the U.S., imposing extra research and manufacturing standards that have few equivalents worldwide. The changes came after some babies were sickened by deficient formulas in the 1970s.

"They are pretty much the strictest food safety guidelines in the U.S. and America has some of the strictest guidelines in the world," said Wendy White, a food safety expert at Georgia Tech.

Companies must consult with the FDA before selling a new formula, altering ingredients in an existing one or making major manufacturing changes. The result is only the biggest manufacturers have plants and procedures that comply with federal rules. And would-be competitors have little incentive to enter the field, given the declining U.S. birth rate.

"You have to have a lot of expertise, a lot of resources and a lot of research dollars," White said.

There are other hurdles for foreign manufacturers looking to compete. The U.S. has long imposed tariffs and quotas on dairy imports from abroad, including Canada, in order to shield American milk producers from competition.

Responding to political pressure, the Biden administration has begun airlifting shipments of formula from Europe. The FDA is also waiving some requirements to encourage more imports from overseas manufacturers that are expected to boost supplies in coming weeks.

The biggest driver of the U.S. market, by far, is a massive federal nutrition program that provides formula and other foods to

lower-income women and children. The WIC program accounts for more than 50% of the U.S. market, providing formula for more than 1.2 million babies, according to the National WIC Association, which represents state and local administrators who run the benefit.

Beginning in 1989, federal law has required states to award contracts to a single formula company, based on whichever one can offer the biggest discounts.

The effect is that contract winners quickly squeeze out much of the competition on store shelves. Today, all 50 WIC contracts are held by three companies: Abbott, Reckitt and Nestle, according to the association. Abbott is the leader, with 34 state contracts.

The competitive effects of these sole-source contracts have been researched for years. A 2011 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that whichever company wins a state's WIC contract typically sees their market share grow by 74%, on average, as WIC recipients switch to their brand.

But not everyone supports overhauling the system. Brian Dittmeier of the National WIC Association says doing away with sole-source contracts would jeopardize the savings that allow the plan to serve so many Americans. Instead he says manufacturers should be held accountable for not investing in their own capacity.

"This is a manufacturing failure," Dittmeier said. "The fact is there just is not enough product to fulfill the demand that manufacturers have drummed up over the years." His group supports calls by some lawmakers for a federal antitrust investigation into the industry.

WIC contracts are generally rebid every four years and market share swings back and forth between the handful of players who compete.

Dr. Steven Abrams, a pediatrician at the University of Texas at Austin, says Congress should revisit the WIC program.

"We need to take a comprehensive look at where the failures happened and where we can fix them" said Abrams. "We need to consider whether we really want to have a situation where there's that much dominance in the program."

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Dr. Mark Sherwood for Governor

Dr. Sherwoods BIO: Dr. Mark Sherwood was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and raised in nearby Berryhill. Dr. Mark is a certified Naturopathic Doctor (ND), and both he and his wife, Michele L. Neil-Sherwood, Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), founded the Functional Medical Institute, a full-time wellness-based medical practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is also a 24-year retired veteran of the Tulsa Police Department, where he logged a decade of courageous service on the department’s SWAT Team. He is a former Oklahoma state and regional bodybuilding champion and ex-professional baseball player. Additionally, Dr. Mark traveled the world for over ten years with the world-famous Power Team. Also, Dr. Mark is a motivational speaker whose presentations are sought by audiences nationwide. The Sherwoods have co-authored three Amazon #1 best-selling books and produced three movies.

His time spent in law enforcement and helping thousands of patients at the Functional Medical Institute has made him the principled leader that Oklahoma needs. Unfortunately, he sees all too clearly the suffocating socialist agenda that is sweeping the nation and making its way to Oklahoma. Dr. Mark is not naive enough to believe that Oklahoma will be exempt from the Marxist strategy to destroy families, silence the church, and push for a totalitarian regime.

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Suspect under arrest in deadly New York City subway shooting

By Michael R. Sisak and Jennifer Peltz

NEW YORK (AP) — A man wanted in an apparently unprovoked fatal shooting aboard a New York City subway train was under arrest Tuesday, hours after authorities posted his name and photo on social media and implored the public to help find him.

Andrew Abdullah, 25, was expected to face charges in the death of 48-year-old Daniel Enriquez. The Legal Aid Society, which is representing him, said it was just beginning to review evidence and urged the public not to make assumptions about the case.

“Mr. Abdullah deserves vigorous representation from his defense counsel, and that is what The Legal Aid Society will provide,” the organization said in a statement.

Enriquez was shot to death while heading to brunch Sunday morning, about six weeks after 10 people were shot in an attack on another subway train.

Enriquez’s sister Griselda Vile implored the city Tuesday to tackle crime more effectively.

“I’m pleading that this not happen to another New Yorker,” she told Fox News. “I don’t want my brother just to be a passing name in the media, a passing name in our normalcy post-pandemic.”

Court records show Abdullah, 25, has two open criminal cases in New York City, one in Brooklyn stemming from an April 24 vehicle theft and the other for an alleged assault in Manhattan in 2020. Messages seeking comment were left with his lawyers.

“This horrific crime should never have happened,” Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said at a news briefing Tuesday.

Police said witnesses reported that the gunman paced the last car of a Q line train heading from Brooklyn to Manhattan, pulled out a gun and fired at Enriquez at close range. The shooter fled after the train arrived at Manhattan’s Canal Street.

Police asked for the public’s help in identifying him, tweeting out surveillance photos of a burly man dressed in a hoodie on a hot day and, on Tuesday morning, Abdullah’s name and photo.

The Legal Aid Society said it had tried since Monday night to arrange for him to surrender in the subway shooting, but authorities instead made a “completely unwarranted and inappropriate” decision to apprehend him outside the organization’s office. An inquiry was sent to police.

“We need all eyes on this,” NYPD Commissioner Keechant Sewell tweeted.

Enriquez worked for the global investment research division at Goldman Sachs, where CEO David Solomon called him a dedicated and beloved employee who “epitomized our culture of collaboration and excellence.”

A child of Mexican American parents, Enriquez spent his early childhood in Brooklyn before his family moved to California and then to Seattle, his partner, Adam Pollack, told the New York Post. Vile said both moves were prompted by violence in

the family’s neighborhoods in New York and Southern California.

Enriquez returned to New York City in the mid-1990s to pursue a master’s degree in Latin American studies at New York University. His yen for learning didn’t stop there — during the coronavirus pandemic, he learned to play the guitar and to speak Portuguese and Italian, his family and partner said.

“He was constantly in self-improvement mode,” brother-in-law Glenn Vile told Fox News.

The eldest of five children, Enriquez looked out for his siblings and parents, his sister said. Just about an hour before he was killed, Enriquez texted his siblings to advise them to check on their parents, who have health problems, she said.

The seemingly random shooting further shook a city already on edge about public safety. Many types of crime have rebounded after dipping dramatically earlier in the pandemic when people were staying home. And concern about crime has soared.

In the first five months of 2022, the number of shootings in the city dropped slightly over the same period a year earlier, and the number of murders is down 12% so far over last year. But New York is still on pace to have its second-highest number of homicides since 2011, after nearly a decade of record lows.

In terms of violent crime, the city remains substantially safer now than it was during the 1970s, ‘80s, ‘90s and early 2000s.

Crime is now city voters’ top concern by far, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released this month. It surveyed 1,249 registered city voters and has a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points.

Mayor Eric Adams, a Democrat who campaigned on promises to make the city safer, said his administration will evaluate how it is deploying officers across the sprawling subway system.

There were no police officers on the train car where Enriquez was shot, Adams said.

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Three young children die in central Oklahoma fire

CRESCENT, Okla. (AP) — Two toddlers and a baby have died in a fire in central Oklahoma.

The fire began shortly before noon Sunday in a shed outside a home in Crescent and eventually spread to the home about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of Oklahoma City, authorities said.

The bodies of the children, whose names have not been released, were found in the rubble of the shed, Crescent Fire Chief Grady Birchfield said Tuesday.

The fire has been ruled accidental and the cause is believed to be electrical but is still under investigation, assistant state Fire Marshal James Fullingim said Tuesday. The children who died were 3 years old, 2 years old and 5 months old.

The children's bodies were sent to the state medical examiner's office to determine the exact causes of their deaths, Fullingim said.



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Top Southern Baptists plan to release secret list of abusers

By Deepa Bharath
Associated Press

Top administrative leaders for the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in America, said Tuesday that they will release a secret list of hundreds of pastors and other church-affiliated personnel accused of sexual abuse.

An attorney for the SBC's Executive Committee announced the decision during a virtual meeting called in response to a scathing investigative report detailing how the committee mishandled allegations of sex abuse and stonewalled numerous survivors. The committee anticipates releasing the list Thursday.

During the meeting, top leaders and several committee members vowed to work toward changing the culture of the denomination and to listen more attentively to survivors' voices and stories.

The 288-page report by Guidepost Solutions, which was released Sunday after a seven-month investigation, contained several explosive revelations. Among those were details of how D. August Boto, the Executive Committee's former vice president and general counsel, and former SBC spokesman Roger Oldham kept their own private list of abusive pastors. Both retired in 2019. The existence of the list was not widely known within the committee and its staff.

"Despite collecting these reports for more than 10 years, there is no indication that (Oldham and Boto) or anyone else, took any action to ensure that the accused ministers were no longer in positions of power at SBC churches," the report said.

Boto joined the Executive Committee in 1995 and became executive vice president and general counsel in 2007.

On Tuesday, the committee released

a statement singling out and denouncing Boto's words written in a communication to survivors and their advocates on Sept. 29, 2006 that "continued discourse between us (the Executive Committee and survivors' advocates) will not be positive or fruitful."

The committee, in its new statement, said it "rejects the sentiment (of Boto's words) in its entirety and seeks to publicly repent for its failure to rectify this position and wholeheartedly listen to survivors."

Gene Besen, the committee's interim counsel, said during Tuesday's virtual meeting that releasing the list is an important step toward transparency. The names of survivors, confidential witnesses and any uncorroborated allegations of sexual abuse will be redacted from the list that will be made public, he said.

Besen said the committee's leaders will also look into revoking retirement benefits for Boto and others who were involved in the cover-up. He urged committee members to set aside past divisions and stay united in a collective commitment to end sexual abuse in the SBC.

Willie McLaurin, the Executive Committee's interim president and CEO, issued a formal public apology to all those who suffered sexual abuse within the SBC, which has a membership of over 47,000 churches.

"We are sorry to the survivors for all we have done to cause pain and frustration," he said. "Now is the time to change the culture. We have to be proactive in our openness and transparency from now."

Executive Committee Chair Wally Slade began the virtual meeting by acknowledging the survivors.

"Our commitment is to be different and do different," he said. "We can't come up with half-baked solutions."

After the report's release, more sexual abuse survivors have been contacting the Executive Committee to tell their stories, Besen said. He said he has asked Guidepost to open up a hotline so survivors who reach out "are directed to the proper place and receive the proper

care." The committee will publicize the hotline number as soon as it goes live, McLaurin said.

The Sexual Abuse Task Force, appointed at the demand of SBC delegates during last year's meeting in Nashville, expects to make its formal motions based on the Guidepost report public next week. Those recommendations will then be presented to the delegates for a vote during this year's national meeting scheduled for June 14-15 in Anaheim, California, according to Pastor Bruce Frank who led the task force.

Frank, lead pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden, North Carolina, said the crux of the task force's recommendations based on Guidepost's report would be to prevent sexual abuse, to better care for survivors when such abuse does occur and to make sure abusers are not allowed to continue in ministry.

Survivors and advocates have long called for a public database of abusers. The creation of an "Offender Information System" was one of the key recommendations in the report by Guidepost Solutions, an independent firm contracted by the SBC's Executive Committee after delegates to last year's national meeting pressed for an investigation by outsiders.

The proposed database is expected to be one of several recommendations that resulted from Guidepost's seven-month investigation presented to thousands of delegates attending this year's national meeting

Lawyer and writer Christa Brown, who says she was sexually abused as a teen by the youth minister at her SBC church, has been pressing the SBC since 2006 to create a publicly accessible database of known abusers. She was heartened by Tuesday's announcement that the secret list would be made public.

"I hope that will happen in the very near future. I'll be watching and waiting," she told The Associated Press. "It boggles my mind to try to imagine how they could have rationalized keeping this list secret for so many years - since 2007. It suggests a level of moral bankruptcy that I find incomprehensible."

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office logs

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

1:11 p.m. – Medic needed for in the 300 block of Cherokee a female who is very weak and has heart condition.

6:11 p.m. – Caller advised of a pick-up truck flipped on its side on Greer and County Road 470. Medic took the patient to Share Medical Center in Alva.

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

During this day there were four traffic stops.

9:34 p.m. – Medic needed for a male with injuries due to a fight. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

Thursday, May 19, 2022

During this day there were three traffic stops.

3:13 a.m. – Report of debris and power lines down leaving Jet.

7:39 a.m. – Medical alarm going off on Broadway. Everything was okay. Accidentally hit the button.

1:42 p.m. – Report of a small black car on OK-8 looking in mailboxes going south. Deputy was unable to locate.

3:12 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver in a white SUV. Advised they were all over the road headed towards Cherokee on US-64. A second caller came in and advised someone cut her off and was tailing the white SUV. Caller advised it was an elderly lady

in the white SUV and she has diabetes and she was following her home. Officer was unable to locate.

5:07 p.m. – Medic needed in the 300 block of 7th Street for a female with chest pains and history of heart issues.

5:56 p.m. – Medic needed for a woman in the 400 block of Elm. Medic took the patient to Fairview Hospital.

Friday, May 20, 2022

During this day there was one traffic stop.

12:10 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver driving down their road.

8:58 p.m. – Caller advised they were receiving harassing phone calls

9 p.m. – Report of a suspicious vehicle sitting at United for a few hours. Officer advised no one was in the vehicle and it belonged to one of the workers.

9:08 p.m. – Caller advised they were at the crystal dig area and now the gate is locked and they can't get out.

Saturday, May 21, 2022

9:21 a.m. – Medic needed in the 400 block of Hinkley.

10:50 a.m. – Report of two males (with?) meth in a Monte Carlo and then went inside an apartment. Officer was unable to find the Monte Carlo.

11:45 a.m. – Caller advised her parents were at her house

See Sheriff Page 45



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From Page 44 **Sheriff**

trying to take her baby and she wants an officer. The mother called 911 also. Deputies en route. Deputy en route to another location for a welfare check for the child.
 8:53 p.m. – Medic needed in the 200 block of Massachusetts. Medic took the patient to Share Medical Center in Alva.
Sunday, May 22, 2022
 2:55 p.m. – Caller advised her husband had been in a two-person accident around County Road 590. Advised he was bleeding in his head and confused. She was unsure of exactly where he was located. No transport needed.
 7:39 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver on Grand.
Monday, May 23, 2022
 8:38 a.m. – Report of multiple males west of James Crabtree Correctional Center stopped for a possible drug drop. Sheriff en route. Three males were taken into custody.

Alfalfa County court filings

According to the affidavits and petitions on file, the following individuals have been charged. An individual is innocent of any charges listed below until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is a matter of public record and may be obtained by anyone during regular hours at the Alfalfa County Courthouse. The Alva Review-Courier will not intentionally alter or delete any of this information. If it appears in the courthouse public records, it will appear in this newspaper.
Civil Filings
 LVNV Funding LLC vs. Michael Lee West, Cherokee: indebtedness. (\$239.14)
Divorce Filings
 Daniel Olson, Amorita, vs. Latasha Lynn Olson, Richardson, Texas: divorce. (\$272.14)
 Bonita Buffalohead vs. Shad W. Courtney, Carmen: divorce. (\$262.14)
Traffic Citations
 Johnathon Lewis Powell, Topeka, Kansas, has been cited for operating vehicle without a valid driver's license. (\$294)
 Johnathon Lewis Powell, Topeka, Kansas, has been cited for operating a vehicle with expired registration. (\$249)
 Cody Lynn Moore, Waukomis, has been cited for s operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license. (\$304)
 Juan Francisco Martinez, Ft. Worth, Texas, has been

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See Alfalfa Page 46

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.

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

Friday

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



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From Page 45 Alfalfa

cited for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license. (\$304)

Michael Kimery, Alva, has been cited for overweight vehicle (bridge formula). (\$634)

Johnathon Lewis Powell, Topeka, Kansas, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Tristan Eugene Graves, Winfield, Kansas, has been cited for speeding 21-25 mph over the speed limit. (\$319)

Chase Alexander Hamilton, Edmond, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Cody Lynn Moore, Waukomis, has been cited for speeding 21-25 mph over the speed limit. (\$319)

Pray Reh, Kansas City, Kansas, has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit. (\$264)

Brian Keith Lambrix, Tulsa, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Juan Francisco, Ft. Texas, Texas, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Jordan Janelle Hendricks, Alva, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Jeff Carter Pierce, Oklahoma City, has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit. (\$264)

Ira Deana Downs, El Reno, has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limits. (\$264)

Teirina Rae Adair, Carmen, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Jeremiah Shawn Duffey, Owasso, has been cited for speeding 16-20 mph over the speed limit. (\$279)

The following individuals were cited for not wearing a seatbelt. (\$20): Jordan Janelle Hendricks, Alva, and Chase Robert Puffinbarger, Cherokee.

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