

THE ALVA REVIEW COURIER

NEWSGRAM

VOLUME 44, NO. 13 • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 • 50¢
620 CHOCTAW, ALVA, OKLAHOMA 73717

Seven students from
South Barber Forensics
team qualify for the
State Championship

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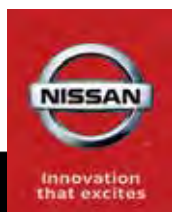
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Woods County OSU Extension offers computer basics classes

Woods County OSU Extension, in partnership with Northwest Technology Center in Alva, will be offering a series of Computer Basics courses beginning on Tuesday, April 2. These classes are offered free of charge, but space will be limited.

Participants attending these courses will learn about the basics of computers, internet and email usage, file management, cyber security, and video conferencing. These courses are suitable for beginner-level computer users of any age.

Please call Northwest Technology Center at 580-327-0344 to register for these courses and for a full schedule. For questions regarding these courses, you may contact Susan Holliday, Extension educator, FCS/4-H, at 580-327-2786 at the Woods County OSU Extension Office.

**Action Ad
deadlines:
Noon on Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday.**

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Waynoka FFA shows at Oklahoma Youth Expo

By Alivia Seaman, Waynoka FFA Reporter

In the past two weeks, many FFA members showed at the Oklahoma Youth Expo and represented Waynoka well. OYE is the largest youth expo in the world. Every March, more than 7,000 4-H and FFA members bring more than 13,000 head of cattle, sheep, pigs and goats to Oklahoma City.

Cattle

Heifers: Morris Litzenberger placed second in class with his Simmental heifer. Jake Inman placed first in class with his Shorthorn Plus heifer. Rholtou Bouziden placed second in class with both Percentage Simmental heifers. Rhiata Bouziden placed second in class with her Chianina and had third overall Percentage Red Angus. Brylee Beck placed eighth in class with her Chianina. Weston Longoria also showed two Commercial heifers.

Steers: Alivia Seaman placed seventh in class with her Angus. Wetson Longoria showed a Crossbred steer.

Sheep

Ewes: Rylan Nix placed third, fourth and fifth with her Dorper ewes. Stetson Nix placed third in class with his Hampshire and fifth in class with his Commercial ewe.

Market Lambs: Rylan Nix placed ninth with her Southdown market lamb, and sixth place in 11th grade Showmanship. Stetson Nix placed eighth in class with his White-Faced Cross, ninth in class with his Hampshire and ninth with his Cross. Stetson also got to show in the Legislative Showmanship with Senator Mullins' office with Graham McDonald.

Goats

Makinze Smith placed 12th and 13th in Class 5; she also placed seventh in 12th grade Showmanship. Whitney Hanks placed eighth and 13th in classes; she also placed sixth in eighth grade Showmanship.

Pigs

Marlie Pitts, Brea Beck, Chanan Wyatt and Roland George showed their pigs at OYE.

Alfalfa County commissioners handle short agenda

Courthouse to be closed this Friday for holiday

By Stacy Sanborn

Monday's Alfalfa County commissioner meeting was brief. Garret Johnson was absent, but Mike Roach and Nate Ross handled the short agenda.

They removed Justin Lucas as a Cherokee Rescue receiving officer and appointed Darren Lancaster. For Alfalfa County's OSU Extension office, they

removed Megan Ferrel as a requisitioning officer and designated Erin Metcalf. Roach and Ross signed the \$2,500 Quarter 2 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) for FY 23 and approved a private property access easement in District 2 at the NE 1/2 of 23-26-12. It is for the removal and replacement of oilfield rock.

The two men also signed off on the payroll warrants, blanket purchase orders, maintenance and operation warrants, and previous meeting minutes.



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Watching whatever and whenever I want

By Marione Martin



The AARP magazine that arrived in the mail this morning had a front cover headline extolling the joys of living alone from a GenX viewpoint. One of the advantages I've found, as a member of the Boomer Generation, is sole control of the TV remote. Since my late husband didn't have much free time to watch TV, I always gave him first option to the remote. This resulted in my watching football games and news shows more frequently than when I'm on my own.

Now I find myself with limited time for TV viewing. I have a bunch of

shows recorded on my DVR for when I can't find anything interesting on TV. However, it's rare that I find an hour-long series that holds my attention well. I find myself playing with my phone or leafing through a magazine when things get boring. My work hours generally don't allow free time to go to the local movie theatre.

I was pleasantly surprised when CBS began a new series called "Tracker." I enjoy mysteries when reading, and the Tracker series by Jeffrey Deaver is one of my favorites. This TV show on Sunday nights is based on that book series. Colter Shaw roams the U.S. as a reward seeker. He finds missing people (or an expensive race horse as in the last episode) or stolen property. He relies on skills learned from his father who took his family off the grid and taught them how to survive in all sorts of situations.

The proliferation of online services for TV viewing has certainly expanded our possibilities for entertainment on demand. So far, I've limited my subscriptions to Amazon Prime. I had already subscribed for the free shipping. It seems that's where my grandchildren found a lot of their ideas for Christmas gifts. And I get a bonus free book for my Kindle every month. I can always do a pay-per-view for current movies, but I have managed to resist that extra expense.

I have watched some really excellent older movies on Prime, but I've also watched some that weren't so great. They also feature some series with hour-long episodes which work for the nights when I only have an hour to relax.

Recently, I finished a movie and wasn't quite ready to sleep. I started surfing through the regular TV offerings. The late night talk shows are not my thing. I came across the OETA Saturday night movie featuring "Akeelah and the Bee." Usually I can't watch a movie more than once because I remember too much. Although I remembered this movie, I really enjoyed it so decided to watch a little. Eventually I realized I needed to go to bed or I'd be tired for church Sunday.

Now, I regularly check to see what OETA is showing. Last weekend, I watched "The Man in the Moon" from the 1990s. It was the first time Reese Witherspoon starred in a film. She was 14 and went to hire on as an extra. Instead, she ended up in a starring role. The movie had a good coming of age storyline, and Witherspoon was perfect in her role as a girl just beginning to find boys interesting.

It's good to have control of the TV remote, especially with all the viewing choices available now. I hope you can gain possession of the remote sometimes.

Of course, I still read books, lots of books. My current lineup includes a couple of books from the library, a couple of books friends of have recommended and some e-books on my Kindle. Books are easier to fit into those small spaces of time when I have a half hour free.

Check our Photo Gallery

www.AlvaReviewCourier.com

for photos not published.

Click on "More Photos"

in the menu bar

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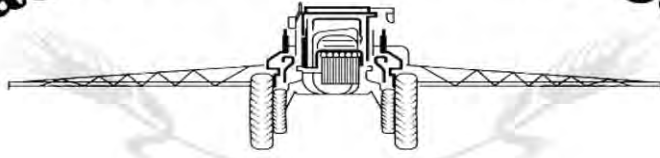
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Woods County Commissioners approve bridge inspections

By Marione Martin

There wasn't much on the agenda for the Woods County Commissioners' meeting Monday. However, the commissioners had to sign lots of documents. Chairman Randy McMurphy opened the meeting with Commissioners David Hamil and John Smiley present. County Clerk Shelley Reed also attended.

Donnie Head of Circuit Engineering District #8 presented a report on bridge inspections in District 3. He said there was a bunch of channel work but nothing major. The commissioners approved his report and the invoice for the work.

The commissioners also approved a Syntech Fuelmaster standard maintenance agreement for the fuel system for District 3 in the amount of \$1,175. The agreement is for March 3, 2024, through March 2, 2025.

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

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



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Candidate filing begins April 3 for state, county offices

Statewide election activity officially begins at 8 a.m. Wednesday, April 3, when the candidate filing period opens, the Secretary of the Woods County Election Board said today.

Candidates for state offices file with the Secretary of the State Election Board. Candidates for county offices file with the Secretary of the County Election Board.

Woods County Election Board Secretary Holly Blevins said the following offices are expected to be filled this year: County Commissioners District #2, County Clerk, Court Clerk,

County Sheriff.

Filing forms and information for county offices may be obtained by contacting the Woods County Election Board at 580-327-1452 or woodscounty@elections.ok.gov. The Woods County Election Board is located at 427 Barnes Ave., Suite 2, and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Filing packets for all offices are also available for download on the State Election Board's website at oklahoma.gov/elections.

The filing period closes at 5 p.m. Friday, April 5.

South Barber Forensics has seven state qualifiers so far

To host Heart of the Plains League Tournament Tuesday, April 2 – gathering judges

By Yvonne Miller

After hours upon hours of practice and tweaking performance and gaining experience at numerous competitions, South Barber's forensics team has seven students who have qualified so far for the state championship in May.

South Barber High School (SBHS) Forensics Coach Meagan Henry said the team is nearing the end of the regular competition season. They host the Heart of the Plains League tournament on Tuesday, April 2, and then compete at the South Central Last Chance meet on Thursday, April 4.

At this point, seven students are qualified for the State Championship meet in ten events. Tanith Erikson and Riley Michel will compete in Serious Solo Acting. Reagan Grieve and Fiona Walz are both multiple-qualified, together in a Duet Act, and separately in Prose (Fiona), and Poetry and Original Oration (Reagan). Autumn Drake will compete in Poetry. Rose Thompson is double qualified in Prose and Original Oration. Danielle MacKinney will compete in Informative Speaking.

Henry said that several students have qualified for State Festival and still hope to earn a spot on the Championship team. Those students and events include James Fox and Joshua MacKinney in Improvised Duet Acting, James Fox in Prose, and Cole Howland and Dayton Masters in Poetry.

Several other students on the team have been working hard and competing at various meets through the season, the coach said. These students include Sam Long in Prose; Nathan McKitrick in Original Oration, Extemporaneous and Impromptu; and Lukas Dunham in Extemporaneous and Impromptu. Henry is confident that the team will see more qualifiers for both state-level competitions next week. All students compete in multiple events throughout the season, so it is very likely that there will be additional students who qualify next week.

The state championship meet will be held at McPherson High School on Saturday, May 4. State Festival is held at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kansas, the same day.

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Carl's Capitol Comments

OYE nurtures the next generation of ag leaders

By Rep. Carl Newton

The Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE) was held March 10-22 at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City.

I was honored to recognize on the House floor on Monday, March

18, two men who are the heart and soul of this event – OYE Vice Chair Jimmy Harrell and OYE Secretary and Treasurer Randy Gilbert. Harrell, of Leedey, Oklahoma, is the CEO of the Bank of Western Oklahoma and sits on the A&M Board of Regents as an appointee by Gov. Stitt. Gilbert, of Tecumseh, is the owner and operations manager at Gilbert and Sons Trucking and sits on the Oklahoma Board of Career and Technology Education.

I also took part that night in the OYE Legislative and Celebrity Showmanship Event. I was paired with Falynn Thomas of Alva 4-H. I showed her goat Lemon. This is a fun time that helps raise money for the youth who participate in this incredible event. These young people dedicate an enormous amount of time to raising their animals for show and sale. It's always good to support their efforts.

OYE, which started in 1915, has grown to become the world's largest junior livestock show. It stands as a beacon of youth development and agricultural excellence across Oklahoma. It's held each March in Oklahoma City.

For 2024, there were more than 8,000 youth exhibitors from all 77 counties. More than 13,000 head of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and ag mechanics projects were exhibited. More than \$3 million was awarded to exhibitors, and more than \$300,000 in academic scholarships.

This is the fifth year for ag mechanic projects to be exhibited, and there are already more than 300 exhibitors in this



See Carl's Page 10

At the OYE Legislative and Celebrity Showmanship Event Rep. Carl NewtonI was paired with Falynn Thomas of Alva 4-H. He showed her goat Lemon.



Dean Goll

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NEW - 400 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise"

Tall grass, trees, cropland, good fences - 1/4 mile from Salt Fork River. This tract consists of 400 Acres of which 151 Acres is good cropland and the balance being 248 Acres of excellent grass. "This is trophy deer country." Don't miss your chance to have a hunting place to call your own. SE 1/4 - 24-28-15 & SW 1/4 & W 1/2 SE 1/4 - 19-28-14, W.I.M. Woods County, Okla.

PRICE: \$775,000.00

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Cropland

This tract consists of 153 Acres of cropland (primarily Tabler Silty Clay Loam and Grant Silt Loam Soils), and the balance being a 7 Ac. grass waterway. It is watered by a solar pump. NE 1/4 - 18-28-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. PRICE: \$475,000.00

NEW - 311 Acres - Excellent cropland. This tract consists of 311 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Grant Silt Loam soil). It is watered by a 6 wire fence, a 20' concrete water tank with a solar pump, and a new set of steel corrals. This farm has everything done. S 1/2 - 12-35S-13W, Barber County, KS.

PRICE: \$950,000.00

NEW - 2 - 80 Acre tracts - A HUNTING PARADISE! Tall grass, trees and tree lines, brush, plum thickets - deer everywhere! S 1/2 SW 1/4 - 12-19-23, W.I.M. and N 1/2 NW 1/4 - 13-19-23, W.I.M., Ellis County, Okla. Location of property: From Arnett, go 8.5 miles east on Hwy 60 to County Road 190, then go 1 mile south to a hunting paradise. PRICE: \$160,000.00 per 80 Acre tract

NEW - 160 Acres - SE 1/4 - 25-27-15, W.I.M. This tract has 157 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Grant Silt Loam soil). Watered by a windmill. PRICE: \$375,000.00

NEW - 160 Acres - NW 1/4 - 5-27-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract has 106 Acres of excellent grassland and 54 Acres of good cropland. Improvements include a 520 sq. ft. metal building with concrete floor and internal plumbing, a shipping container, and four other outbuildings. It has a new 5-wire fence and rural water on a paved road. Excellent hunting. PRICE: \$430,000.00

NEW - 160 Acres - NE 1/4 - 6-27-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract has 75 Acres of good cropland and 85 Acres of good cropland. It has a 5-wire fence, a windmill, and a windmill. Rural water is available. Excellent hunting on a paved road. PRICE: \$320,000.00

NEW - 960 Acres, N 1/2 SW 1/4 and the NW 1/4 - 17-27-15, W 1/2 SW 1/4, W 1/2 SE 1/4, E 1/2 SW 1/4 - 8-27-15, S 1/2 NE 1/4, E 1/2 SW 1/4, SE 1/4 - 7-27-15, E 1/2 SE 1/4, NW 1/4 SE 1/4 NE 1/4, SW 1/4 - 18-27-15
This tract consists of 960 acres of excellent grassland, all contiguous, with 12 miles northwest of Alva, Okla. 94 acres was planted to v.w. This tract has excellent hunting potential and is watered by five ponds. Fences are good, 4 and 5-wire fences with some new over the past years. NEW PRICE: \$1,350,000.00

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

NEW - 338 Acres, NE 1/4 & the SW 1/4 lying east of the RR right-of-way

SOLD & SE 1/4 less a tract, all in Sec 14-28-13, W.I.M. This tract consists of 298 Acres of good cropland and the balance being 40 Acres of good grassland. Borders Hwy 11 at Capron, Okla. PRICE: \$750,000.00

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

SOLD **NEW - 160 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise"** Excellent grass, heavy tree cover, several canyons with large pond. Excellent wildlife habitat. From Waynoka, Okla., go 7 miles north on Hwy 14 to Ellis Road, then go 2 miles west to property. NW 1/4 - 34-26-16, W.I.M. PRICE: \$300,000.00

SOLD **NEW - 222 Acres - 206 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 16 Acres of tree groves.** Has excellent hunting potential. W 1/2 SE 1/4, and the SW 1/4 less 16 Acre tract in 29-23-10, W.I.M., Major County, Okla. PRICE: \$440,000.00

SOLD **915 Acres - A Sportsman's dream - Borders Cimarron River in Freedom, Okla.** Legal E 1/2 NW 1/4, Lot 2, E 1/2 SE 1/4 & NE 1/4 - 28-27-18 SW 1/4, W 1/2 SW & SW NW - 27-27-18, Woods Co., Okla. PRICE: \$1,100,000.00

SOLD **NEW - 154 Acres - NW 1/4 - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla.** This tract consists of 106 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 22 Acres of good cropland and waterways. There is excellent building potential. Just one mile east of Alva. PRICE: \$550,000.00

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

SOLD **NEW - 146 Acres - NW 1/4 - 20-27-13, Woods County, Okla.** This tract consists of 106 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Dale Silt Loam and Sandy Loam soils). The farm has rural water and lies north of the Alva Industrial Park. PRICE: \$525,000.00

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

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

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

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

SOLD **NEW - 320 Acres - W 1/2 - 11-25-14, Woods County, Oklahoma.** This tract has an excellent stand of Ozark Bermudagrass. New fences and steel corrals, and water, bunk lines, corrals, and shade on a paved road. PRICE: \$250,000.00

FOR SALE

Commercial Property: Between Shepherds & Days Inn Motel on Hwy 64 East of Alva - 3.15 Acres. PRICE: \$275,000.00

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

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From Page 8 Carl's

category. This isn't just your average charcoal grill. These are elaborate projects, some as big as trailers, just fantastic things the students have made.

The newest project at OYE is the Oklahoma Pig Derby. For kids who cannot afford to buy a pig, they can apply to receive a Yorkshire pig. Fifty recipients were selected this year to compete against each other in the show and sale. The total awards for these young people were over \$15,000. This was the work of Scott Nemecek and Jim Coakley from Oklahoma State University.

OYE serves as a pivotal platform for nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders across Oklahoma. Through their active involvement in livestock projects, young exhibitors cultivate essential life skills, including teamwork, leadership, and financial management, positioning them for success both within the agricultural sector and beyond.

I'm glad to support and help sponsor OYE's mission of empowering youth and promoting agricultural excellence throughout our state. I'm committed to helping our youth who are involved in agriculture, one of our state's vital industries.

OYE not only enriches the educational opportunities available to our youth but also contributes to the agricultural heritage that defines our state.

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



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Allergy season is here and it's more challenging in certain US cities

EDITORS/NEWS DIRECTORS:

Allergy season is earlier and stronger than expected.

More than 80 million Americans deal with itchy eyes, runny nose and other symptoms of seasonal allergies, according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Experts say climate change has led to longer and more intense allergy seasons. The level of misery people will face depends on where they live and what they're allergic to, but there are things people can do to feel better.

There are three main types of pollen that cause seasonal allergies: tree pollen in early spring, followed by grasses then weeds in the late summer and early fall.

Some of the most common tree pollens that cause allergies include birch, cedar, cottonwood, maple, elm, oak and walnut, according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. Grasses that cause symptoms include Bermuda, Johnson, rye and Kentucky bluegrass.

READ AP'S STORY

Allergy season arrived early in US. Here's how to keep pollen from ruining your spring

FIND YOUR CITY: MOST CHALLENGING CITIES TO LIVE IN IF YOU HAVE ALLERGIES

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America issues an annual ranking of the most challenging cities to live in if you have allergies, based on over-the-counter medicine use, pollen counts and the number of available allergy specialists.

Here are the top 20 cities for 2024. The report also includes a list of 100 cities on page 5.

1. Wichita, Kansas
2. Virginia Beach, Virginia
3. Greenville, South Carolina
4. Dallas
5. Oklahoma City
6. Tulsa, Oklahoma
7. Richmond, Virginia
8. Des Moines, Iowa
9. Raleigh, North Carolina
10. Fayetteville, Arkansas
11. Allentown, Pennsylvania
12. Baton Rouge, Louisiana

13. Sarasota, Florida
14. Houston
15. Columbia, South Carolina
16. Orlando, Florida
17. Little Rock, Arkansas
18. Chattanooga, Tennessee
19. Greensboro, North Carolina
20. Kansas City, Missouri

ADDITIONAL CONTEXT ON TRACKING POLLEN AND RELIEVING SYMPTOMS

— The best and first step to controlling allergies is avoiding exposure. To prevent allergy issues, keep windows closed at home and in the car, avoid going out when pollen counts are highest and change clothes when you get home.

— Pollen trackers can help with planning. The American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology tracks levels through a network of counting stations across the U.S. Counts are available at its website and via email.

— Experts say people should first figure out what they are allergic to, and many Americans are allergic to several things at once. Allergists can run tests for different triggers.

— Over-the-counter nasal sprays can help relieve symptoms, but they take a while to kick in, so it's best to start them as soon as possible, an expert said.

— Antihistamines are another option. For young children and people who have to take many different allergy medications, immunotherapies in the form of shots and oral drops can help desensitize the immune system to allergens, treating symptoms at their root.

CONSIDER THESE REPORTING THREADS

— Ask local primary care physicians and allergists if they've noticed any changes in number of patients they've seen or patient needs this allergy season.

— If you live in a pollen-heavy place, what plants contribute to allergies?

— Ask community members if they suffer from allergies and how they feel this season compares to others.

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Acres	County/State	Description	Price	Status
76	McCurtain Co, OK	Glover River in McCurtain County, OK	\$1,500,000	NEW
300	McCurtain Co, OK	Historic Ranch in McCurtain County, OK	\$2,100,000	NEW
525	McCurtain Co, OK	Sportsman's Paradise on Little River	\$1,837,500	NEW
620	Meade Co, KS	Grazing - CRP - Hunting	\$1,260,000	NEW
1,894	Morton Co, KS	Dryland Farm Ground-CRP-Homestead	\$1,650,000	new price
980	Blaine Co, OK	Income Producing Quarry w/Mining Lease	\$3,430,000	new price
525	Wayne Co, MO	135/ac Private Lake - Hardwood Timber	\$2,895,000	new price
780	Texas Co, OK	Grassland, Grazing, Hunting	\$741,000	new price
242	Comanche Co, KS	Agricultural, Grassland, Hunting	\$363,000	new price
412	Barber Co, KS	Hunting, Agricultural, Grazing	\$1,075,000	
138	Kingfisher Co, OK	Cropland, Hunting, Grassland	\$415,000	new price
39	McCurtain Co, OK	Platted Residential Dev near Golf Course	\$975,000	new price
504	McCurtain Co, OK	Land + Home, Timber, Wildlife	\$3,700,000	new price
304	Woods Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Multiple Ponds	\$365,000	new price
638	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Spring Fed Pond	\$1,084,600	new price
114	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Grassland	\$245,000	
24.67	Woods Co, OK	Custom Home, Pond, Grassland, Hunting	\$775,000	
156	Woods Co, OK	Res/Comm Development near Alva	\$499,000	new price
1.9	Taney Co, MO	D'monaco Luxury Resort	\$36,000,000	
2.5	Taney Co, MO	170 Room Hotel Development Project	\$8,500,000	
Lots	McCurtain Co, OK	Convenience Store - Recently Built	\$3,675,000	SOLD
880	Kiowa Co, KS	Agricultural, Hunting, Grass Land	\$1,760,000	SOLD
632	Woods Co, OK	Pond + Hunting Greenleaf Creek	call for price	SOLD
680	Seminole Co, OK	6 Tracts - North Canadian River	AUCTION	SOLD
11,242	McIntosh Co, OK	GILLESPIE RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$23,600,000	SOLD
290	WOODS CO, OK	Little Sahara State Park 14 Tracts	AUCTION	SOLD
780	Alfalfa Co, OK	6 Tracts - CLASS 1 SOILS - Cropland	AUCTION	SOLD
477	Barber Co, KS	Grassland, Hunting, Ponds	\$950,000	SOLD
148	Kay Co, OK	Cultivation, Agricultural, Grassland	\$400,000	SOLD
381	Kay Co, OK	Cropland 3 tracts near Blackwell OK	\$933,450	SOLD
255	Ripley Co, MO	40-acre Private Lake & Improvements	\$1,350,000	SOLD
1545	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting Land - Lodge - Springs & Creeks	\$2,999,000	SOLD
640	Woods Co, OK	5 Farm Land Auction	\$1,350,200	SOLD
405	Ottawa Co, OK	High Yield Cropland in Welch, Oklahoma	\$1,700,000	SOLD
150	Sumner Co, KS	Development/Cropland/River Clearwater	\$879,900	SOLD
11,391	McIntosh Co, OK	FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$19,900,000	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
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
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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5 takeaways from the abortion pill case before the U.S. Supreme Court

By Matthew Perrone, Amanda Seitz and Christine Fernando

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Supreme Court justices on Tuesday did not appear ready to limit access to the abortion pill mifepristone, in a case that could have far-reaching implications for millions of American women and for scores of drugs regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

It's the first abortion-related case the court has taken since a majority of the current justices struck down the constitutional right to abortion in 2022.

A group of anti-abortion doctors had asked the court to restrict access to mifepristone and to limit when in a pregnancy it could be used.

Key moments from the arguments:
ABORTION PILL SAFETY UNDER MICROSCOPE

The FDA approved mifepristone in 2000 as a safe and effective way to end early pregnancies. Last year the pill was used in more than six in 10 of the abortions in the U.S.

The central argument of the conservative group challenging mifepristone is that the Food and Drug Administration overlooked serious problems with the drug when it eased restrictions on the drug, including making it available via mail in 2021.

Erin Hawley, who represented the doctors suing the agency, argued the FDA "failed to consider or explain ... its wholesale removal of safeguards" on the pill.

But the FDA has long argued its decision to drop in-person appointments to get mifepristone, among other requirements, came after 20 years of monitoring its safety. In that period the

agency reviewed dozens of studies in thousands of women in which serious problems — including hospitalization — occurred less than 0.3% of the time.

Hawley pointed out that FDA's own prescribing label mentions that 2.9% to 4.6% of women taking the drug go to the emergency room. But Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar pointed to studies showing that half of women who go to the emergency room don't get any treatment at all.

"Many women might go because they're experiencing heavy bleeding, which mimics a miscarriage, and they might just need to know whether or not they're having a complication," Prelogar said.

Because of the highly technical nature of reviewing drug data and research, courts have long deferred to FDA's scientific judgements on safety and effectiveness.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson pressed Hawley on the legal basis for second-guessing the agency's regulators.

"So what deference do we owe them at all with respect to their assessment that these studies establish what it is that they say they do about safety and efficacy?"

HOW FAR TO GO

Hawley ran into questions as she argued that a nationwide rule curtailing mifepristone use was needed.

She was repeatedly interrupted by Justice Neil Gorsuch, who voiced objections to such sweeping injunctions.

The case "seems like a prime example of turning what could be a small lawsuit into a nationwide legislative assembly on an FDA rule or any other federal government action," said Gorsuch.

Normally when a court issues an

injunction about a government policy it only applies to the individuals or groups in the case. But in recent years a growing number of justices on lower courts have issued "universal injunctions," blocking federal regulations nationwide.

Gorsuch noted that there have been roughly 60 such rulings in the last four years.

Chief Justice John Roberts also seemed skeptical that a ruling reversing the FDA's scientific judgments was necessary.

"Why can't the court specify that this relief runs to precisely the parties before the court as opposed to looking to the agency in general and saying, 'Agency, you can't do this anywhere?'"

RIGHT TO SUE

The Biden administration argued that the plaintiffs — a group called the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine — didn't have the right to challenge the FDA's actions on mifepristone.

The doctors who brought the suit argued that they might have to treat emergency room patients who experience serious complications after taking the drug.

But Prelogar told the court that the doctors don't have to prescribe mifepristone and they can abstain from treating patients who have taken the pill if they oppose abortion.

"They don't prescribe mifepristone," Prelogar said. "They don't take mifepristone, obviously. The FDA is not requiring them to do or refrain from doing anything. They aren't required to treat women who take mifepristone."

Justice Samuel Alito, however, repeatedly pressed the government on who did have the right to sue over FDA's decisions.

"Is there anybody who can sue and get a judicial ruling on whether what FDA did was lawful?" Alito, who wrote the 2022 ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, asked.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES, PLEASE

Several justices pressed Hawley to provide real-life examples of doctors who oppose abortion being forced to treat patients who had suffered from abortion pill complications.

See Court Page 18

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From Page 14 **Court**

They also took issue with how many hypothetical problems Hawley raised in her argument against the FDA's loosening of abortion pill restrictions.

"I don't want to hypothesize," Jackson said to Hawley, asking her to provide an example of a doctor who was unable to object to providing an abortion.

At one point, Justice Amy Coney Barrett also questioned an example one of the doctors provided of a colleague who had to perform a "dilation and curettage" procedure on a patient with complications. Barrett pointed out that those procedures are not just performed in cases of abortions but for miscarriages as well.

Some of the justices also pointed out that doctors are already protected from performing abortions when they don't want to by voicing conscience objection.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh raised that point early on: "Under federal law,

no doctors can be forced against their consciences to perform or assist in an abortion, correct?"

MORE DRUGS AT RISK

For more than a century, the FDA has had sole authority over assessing the safety of drugs and approving their sale in the U.S.

The agency first approved mifepristone in 2000 following a four-year review, including detailed safety studies submitted by the French manufacturer. In 2016, FDA loosened restrictions on the drug to allow it to be prescribed up to 10 weeks of pregnancy and allowed nurses and other medical professionals to prescribe it. In 2021, the agency said the drug could be sent through the mail, doing away with a longstanding requirement that women to pick the drug up in person.

Jessica Ellsworth, an attorney representing the New York-based Danco

Laboratories, which makes mifepristone, asked the justices to consider how the case could upend the FDA's decades-old system for regulating drugs, vaccines and other life-saving medicines.

"I think this court should think hard about the mischief it would invite if it allowed agencies to start taking action based on statutory responsibilities that Congress has assigned to other agencies," she said.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's decision last year marked the first time a court had issued a decision to revoke approval of a drug FDA had deemed safe. An open letter signed by nearly 300 biotech and pharmaceutical company leaders last year slammed the ruling as undermining Congress' delegated authority to the FDA to approve and regulate drugs. If justices can unilaterally overturn drug approvals, they said "any medicine is at risk."

Texas AG Ken Paxton reaches deal to end securities fraud charges after 9 years

By Juan A. Lozano

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Tuesday agreed to pay nearly \$300,000 in restitution under a deal to end criminal securities fraud charges that have shadowed the Republican for nearly a decade.

The announcement by special prosecutors in a Houston courtroom came less than three weeks before Paxton was set to stand trial on felony charges that could have led to a prison sentence. It was the closest Paxton — who was indicted in 2015 — has ever come to trial over accusations that he duped investors in a tech startup near Dallas.

Under the 18-month agreement, the special prosecutors would drop three felony counts against Paxton as long as he pays full restitution to his victims, and completes 100 hours of community service and 15 hours of legal ethics education.

Paxton said nothing in the courtroom, other than affirming to state District Judge Andrea Beall that he signed the agreement, and he avoided reporters by leaving the court through a back door.

But in a statement released later

Tuesday, Paxton — one of the nation's most prominent state attorney generals — remained defiant following his latest legal and political victory. Just six months earlier, he was acquitted of corruption charges in an impeachment trial in the Texas Senate.

"There will never be a conviction in this case nor am I guilty," said Paxton, who also thanked his family and supporters "for sticking by my side." The agreement lets Paxton remain in his elected position and doesn't affect his law license.

Dan Cogdell, one of Paxton's attorneys, said prosecutors would never have been able to prove their case at trial, but he conceded that it was cheaper for Paxton to accept the agreement.

"Number one, the economics are actually in his favor for not going to trial. And number two, it's a guaranteed dismissal at the end of the day," Cogdell told reporters.

Houston attorney Brian Wice, who was a special prosecutor in the case, described the deal as a victory that requires Paxton to repay investors, including Byron Cook, a former GOP lawmaker who served with Paxton in the

Texas Legislature, and the estate of Joel Hochberg, a South Florida businessman who died last year.

Wice, who previously indicated that he would consider a pre-trial deal a "slap on the wrist," said he and fellow prosecutor Jed Silverman had since reevaluated their chance of success based on evidence and witnesses.

"Our primary duty is to do justice, not to convict. So, the question isn't whether or not who won, but was justice served? And I think the answer to that is unmistakably yes," Wice said.

In a statement through their attorney, the Cook and Hochberg families said they are "grateful that they will receive restitution in full."

Wice acknowledged the long arc of the case that shuffled between four different judges over the years, ping-ponged between courtrooms in Dallas and Houston, and at one point was slowed by the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

The resolution of the securities fraud case furthers a dramatic reversal of political fortune for Paxton, who just a

See Texas Page 32

NORTHWEST TREATMENT CENTER IS CURRENTLY RECRUITING FOR:

Full-Time Position - Clinical Director

Job Requirements: Supervise Clinical staff and their caseloads as well as provide psychological services for clients at a residential alcohol / drug treatment facility, providing psychological testing, individual counseling, family counseling, conducting assessment interviews with clients, and facilitate group therapy,

Educational and Other Requirements: Possess a Master's Degree in Psychology, Social work, or closely related behavioral science field and possess license of LPC, LCSW, or LADC. Individual must pass a thorough background check and drug screening to qualify.

Salary Based on Experience

Full Time Benefits include:

Holiday / Sick / PTO /Insurance Pkg.

Full-Time Position - Case Manager

Job Requirements: Under direct supervision of the Clinical Supervisor & Executive Director provide case management services to adult and juvenile clients in a residential treatment setting. Conduct assessment interviews; contact partnering agencies for pertinent information, and develop case management treatment plans. Complete all clinical documentation as required within specified time frames, and serves as a member of a multifaceted treatment team.

Educational and Other Requirements: Bachelor's/Master's in a behavioral health related field or a Bachelor's/Master's in Education with at least 9 hours of credit in a behavioral health related field; or Current license as a registered nurse in Oklahoma with experience in behavioral health care; or Bachelor's/Master's in any field and a current certification as a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP) from the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. Individual must pass a thorough background check and drug screening to qualify.

Salary Based on Experience

Full Time Benefits include:

Holiday / Sick / PTO /Insurance Pkg.

Full/Part-Time Position - Counselor

Job Requirements: Under direct supervision of the Clinical Supervisor provide substance abuse services to adult and juvenile clients in a residential treatment setting. Provide individual counseling, family counseling, conducting assessment interviews, facilitate group therapy, develop treatment plans, complete Addiction Severity Index testing and Integrated Summary Notes, identify the presence of co-occurring disorders and address on the treatment plan. Complete all clinical documentation as required within specified time frames, and serves as a member of a multifaceted treatment team.

Educational and Other Requirements: Possess a Master's Degree in psychology, social work, or closely related behavioral science field. Special consideration will be given to those holding a license of LPC, LCSW, LADC, etc., or working on obtaining or holding a similar license in the behavioral health field. Individual must pass a thorough background check and drug screening to qualify.

Salary Based on Experience

Full Time Benefits include:

Holiday / Sick / PTO /Insurance Pkg.

Full-Time Position - Maintenance

Qualifications: Perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled tasks in the maintenance, alteration, and repair of the NWTC facility and their related equipment. Individual must possess time management skills and be able to work independently. Current driver's license and clean driving record required. Salary depends on experience

Full Time Benefits include:

Holiday/ Sick/ Vacation/ Insurance Package

Closing Date: April 15, 2024

**SUBMIT APPLICATION IN PERSON
OR COVER LETTER AND
RESUME WITH REFERENCES BY
FAX, EMAIL, OR MAIL TO:**

Northwest Treatment Center Christina Murrow -Director

P.O. Box 135

1095 Nickerson St.

Waynoka, OK 73860

(580)824-0674 | Fax (580)824-0676 | Email: cmurrownwtc@pldi.net



April/May 2024~Alva Campus



Featured classes begin in April/May unless noted. Scan the QR code for a complete listing.

Mastering the Landlord-Tenant Relationship

(Live-Streamed – Virtual Class)

This class is taught by a lawyer who manages his own rental properties.

In addition to answering as many questions as possible, this class will cover Oklahoma's Landlord Tenant Act, what a "good" lease might include, what the eviction process looks like, and some practical tips for maintaining a good relationship between landlords and tenants. This class is live-streamed through zoom.

4/29 Monday 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm \$50

Computer Basics Series

Don't be afraid of your computer! Learn the tools and resources you need to be computer savvy! Class times are 10:00am – 11:00am. This series is a partnership with OSU Extension.

Computer Basics Tuesday, 4/2

Internet Basics Wednesday, 4/3

Email Basics Friday, 4/5

File Management Basics Monday, 4/8

Cyber Security Basics Thursday, 4/11

Video Conferencing Basics Tuesday, 4/16

All of these classes are FREE!

Certified Nurse Aide Training

Unlock doors to a world of compassionate care and professional fulfillment. Our comprehensive curriculum aligns with industry standards and prepares you for success in the challenging yet fulfilling field of long-term care.

4/22 - 5/9 M-Th 8:30 am-4:30 pm \$625

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580.327.0344

NWTC is an EOE.

General Industry 30-Hour OSHA Training

Led by an OSHA-authorized instructor, this 30-hour training program delves into a wide range of topics crucial for maintaining workplace safety in general industry settings.

5/7 – 5/10 Tues-Fri 8:30 am – 5:00 pm \$275

CANVA Training Series

(Training in our Computer Lab. No need to bring your computer.)

CANVA can be used for social media graphics, printable marketing pieces, presentations, and so much more! Join us to learn how CANVA can help you!

4/18 Intro to CANVA \$30

4/25 Graphic Design in CANVA \$30

5/2 Projects Plus \$30

Bundle all three classes and save! Take all three classes for \$80.

Classes held Thursdays from 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Pie Crust in 5!

(Supply list provided)

Discover the art and science of perfect pie crusts in our exciting "Pie Crust in 5!" class. Whether you're a novice baker or an experienced pastry enthusiast, this hands-on workshop is designed to demystify the secrets behind creating flaky, delicious pie crusts. By the end of the "Pie Crust in 5!" class, you'll not only have a newfound confidence in making perfect pie crusts but also take home your creations to enjoy with family and friends. Elevate your baking skills and unlock the secrets to pie crust perfection!

4/13 Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm \$15



April/May 2024 ~ Fairview Campus



Featured classes begin in April/May unless noted. Scan the QR code for a complete listing.

iPhone / iPad

Come have some fun in this course that is designed to familiarize individuals with the basics of using Apple's iOS devices. This course typically covers fundamental operations, features, and applications of iPhones and iPads.

**4/11 – 4/25 Thursday 6:00 – 9:00pm
\$15**

Bring Your Own Piece, Chalk Painting

Each student will get a sample size paint pot in a select color option along with tons of new knowledge, skills, and shown how to revive a piece of furniture from your own home.

4/8 Monday 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm \$55

Advanced Certified Med Aide-Respiratory & Gastric

The Advanced Certified Medication Aide - Respiratory & Gastric course is designed to provide specialized training for Certified Medication Aides (CMAs) who seek to expand their knowledge and skills in administering medications via respiratory and gastric routes. This advanced course equips participants with

**4/23 & 4/24 Tuesday and Wednesday
9:00am – 3:00pm \$255**

Certified Medication Aide (CMA)

The Certified Medication Aide (CMA) course is designed to provide comprehensive training for individuals seeking to become proficient in the administration of medications in various healthcare settings. This course equips students with the knowledge, skills, and legal responsibilities necessary to safely and accurately administer medications under the supervision of licensed healthcare professionals.

4/2 – 4/16 8:30am – 5:00pm \$440

Basic Life Support Provider

The American Heart Association BLS course trains participants to recognize several life-threatening emergencies, give high-quality chest compressions, deliver appropriate ventilations and provide early use of an AED.

This course reflects science and education from the AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC). This course is designed for healthcare professionals and others who need to know how to perform CPR and other cardiovascular life support skills in a wide variety of settings.

4/9 or 5/21 Tuesday 12:30pm – 4:30pm \$45

Free Motion Quilting

Embark on a creative journey into the world of free motion quilting. Whether you're a novice quilter or an experienced enthusiast looking to expand your skills, this class is designed to empower you with the techniques and confidence to create stunning, personalized quilted designs. (Call for supply list)

In this hands-on class, you will learn the art of free motion quilting, a versatile and expressive quilting technique that allows you to move the fabric freely under the needle of your sewing machine. You'll gain the skills necessary to design, plan, and execute intricate quilting patterns that will truly make your quilts stand out.

4/8 – 4/22 Monday 6:00pm – 9:00pm \$35

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801 Vo-Tech Drive, Fairview
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NWTC is an EOE.

Obituaries

RUTH ANN MAXWELL GATZ



Ruth Ann Maxwell Gatz, "Ruthie," 83, peacefully graduated to Heaven on March 12, 2024, in Richmond, Texas. She was born on December 6, 1940, in Alva, Oklahoma, to Marshall Rhodes Maxwell and Evelyn

Florence (Baum) Maxwell.

Ruth Ann was the middle sister to Alycen and Lucille Maxwell. They were all three very accomplished musicians and pianists. In addition to being a talented pianist, Ruth Ann also loved to sing, dance, play the flute and perform in theatre. She was very busy as a high school student and was a member of the National Honor Society, Y-teens, yearbook, choir, band, theatre, Rainbow girls and the "Bugettes."

While she was in high school, she started dating her high school sweetheart, who later became her fiancé and husband, Jimmie Gatz. She attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University for two years and married Jimmie Ray Gatz on May 28, 1961. From Alva, the newlyweds moved shortly after to pursue their degrees at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in education with a minor in French and Spanish.

Ruth Ann taught elementary school briefly in Altamont, Kansas. They later moved to Tucson, Arizona, where their oldest son, Greg, was born. They moved to Hooker, Oklahoma, next and Brad was born in Liberal, Kansas. Later, they returned to Alva to raise their children and so that Jim could pursue farming and raising animals with his father and brother. Gina was the youngest child and was born a couple of years after returning to Alva.

Ruth Ann spent the rest of her days being a devoted and caring wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, piano teacher, Sunday school teacher, volunteer, choir member, square dancer, "Walkie Talkie" member, a PEO sister, United Methodist Women member, and Kingsland Baptist member. She moved to Katy, Texas, in 2000 to be near her grandchildren and attended nearly every event they participated in.

She always looked for the best in others and tried to help others to never feel left out. She had such a sweet ministry of sending cards to others. She taught her children how to pray, to forgive, to be thankful, and about how much Jesus loved everyone. She taught that it was ok to not be perfect. She demonstrated love and compassion in her home and in her community. She loved babies! She always loved to greet others with her friendly smile and make them feel welcome, included, encouraged and special. She wanted to make the world a better place for all.

She was a tiny lady who often reminded others that dynamite comes in small packages. The most important thing in her life was prayer, reading the Bible and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ so that others would also have eternal salvation and forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ!

Her favorite Bible verse was John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." She fought the good fight; she kept the faith ... through all of the tragedies and struggles in her life. May her legacy of faith, kindness, integrity and mercy continue for 1,000 generations!

Nearly 41 years after her husband passed away on March 16, 1983, she has finally been reunited with him! She is enjoying meeting Jesus and celebrating with her family and friends who have passed before her ... she must be dancing the Jitterbug with Jimmie!

Ruth Ann is survived by her three children, Gregory Jim Gatz and wife Angela (of Coweta, Oklahoma), Bradley Ray Gatz and wife Andrea (of Katy, Texas) and Gina Lou Gatz Cornelius (of Richmond, Texas); six grandchildren, Andrew, Rebekah and husband Patton, Bailey and husband Ben, Cole, Jonathan, Anna; her two sisters Alycen Yoder and Lucille Rhodes, her brother-in-law Joe Gatz; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Jimmie Ray Gatz.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations in her name be made to the Alva Cory Washburn Swimming Pool fund in Alva, Oklahoma, or the Go

Beyond Missions program at Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas.

The family would like to especially thank the caregivers who took care of our precious mother in the final months and to all of our friends and family who have been so supportive and helpful in multiple ways.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, in the worship center of Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas. Visitation was from 9 to 10 a.m. and the funeral began at 10 a.m. The service was livestreamed at Kingsland.org/memorialservice. A graveside service and burial will be in Alva, Oklahoma, at the Alva Municipal Cemetery on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. with a reception to follow at the United Methodist Church in Alva.

FORREST EVERETT LeCRONE SR.



Forrest Everett LeCrone Sr. was born May 01, 1928, in Beaver County, Oklahoma, at the family farm to Emery and Beulah LeCrone.

He was the first born of seven children. He went to be with his Lord on March 19, 2024, in Enid, Oklahoma, at the age of 96 years, 10 months, 18 days after battling cancer. He never complained about pain; he would just say "God won't give us more than we can handle."

He went to school in Laverne, Oklahoma, then Rosston, Oklahoma. He was saved at age 9, then again at 81 years old, where he was a member of the Chisholm Trail Cowboy Church. He rededicated his life to God, and he could recite any Bible verse you threw at him. He loved to tell people about the great man upstairs.

In his 20s he liked to rodeo until an injury put a stop to that. He liked the broncos, but apparently they didn't like him.

Forrest was a World War II veteran; his unit was the 10th Mountaineers Division. He was given a medical discharge. After returning home he became a cross country truck driver, which led him to live in many different

See Obits Page 26



BELLAMY & CO. LLC

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

BRIAN THIEME & KARLA BROWN LAND AUCTION

161± ACRES PRODUCTIVE CROPLAND SOUTH OF BURLINGTON

ALFALFA COUNTY LAND AUCTION

with Simulcast Bidding Available (signal permitting)

Legal: SE/4 of Section 30, Township 28 North, Range 11 West, Alfalfa County, OK

Predominantly tillable cropland quarter, with good soil types, creek dividing the tract from north to south. FSA mapping shows approx. 89.21 acres of tillable cropland on the East side of the creek, and approx. 44.23 acres of tillable cropland on the west side, with an additional 11 acres in the far northwest corner, the balance being in the timber-lined creek portion.

FSA Information: Per the Farm Service Agency, total Farmland consists of 155.85 Cropland acres, with a Wheat Base of 116.60 Acres, and a PLC Yield of 42 Bu.

Soil Information: Principal Soil types include Class 1 Dale Silt Loam,

Class 2 Crisfield Fine Sandy Loam, with the balance a mix of Class 3 & Class 4 Yahola Fine Sandy Loam, and Dale Silt Loam.

Friday, April 5 • 10am

Burlington Town Hall / Fire Station

HALTOM LAND AUCTION - HUNTING & FISHING PARADISE!

47± ACRES PRODUCTIVE GRASS | TIMBER & COVER SOUTH OF ALVA

WOODS COUNTY LAND AUCTION

with Simulcast Bidding Available (signal permitting)

Legal: Approx 47-acre tract located in NE/4 of Section 25, Township 26 North,

Range 15 West, Woods County, OK

Rare small tract that offers great recreational & livestock potential. Large pond, productive grassland and areas of timber/cover for whitetail deer, pheasants/quail and migratory birds. Established grassland for cattle grazing, this would be a great tract close to town for a homesite, place for horses, etc. Be sure to take a look at this one!

FSA Information: Per the Farm Service Agency, total farmland consists of 47 Acres, 19 Cropland acres, with a Wheat Base of 14.69 Acres, and a PLC Yield of 29 Bu.

Soil Information: Majority of the soil types are Class 2 Tillman silty clay loam, Class 3 Devol fine sandy loam, Class 2 Waynoka fine sandy loam.

Friday, April 12 • 10am

On site at the property

TRUCK EQUIPMENT SURPLUS ONLINE AUCTION

- 1984 Peterbilt 359 Day Cab Semi Truck
- 2013 Freightliner Cascadia 125
- 1987 Caterpillar D4H II
- MORE!



BIDDING ENDS April 16, 2024 • 10am*

Bid will extend if active bids are being placed.

JOSEPHINE E. RICKS ESTATE LAND AUCTION

160± ACRES PRODUCTIVE GRASSLAND & HUNTING

GRANT COUNTY LAND AUCTION

with Simulcast Bidding Available (signal permitting)

Friday, April 19 • 10am

On site at the property

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Friday & Saturday
April 5th & 6th

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ALVA, OKLAHOMA



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ALVABULLBATTLE



From Page 22 Obits

states. He was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Sulphur, Oklahoma, and a volunteer fireman. He also played on the men's softball team in Helena. Forrest worked at the Farmers Cooperative in Helena, Oklahoma, for almost 30 years, retiring in 1990.

He was married on Christmas Eve, 1950, to Martha Minter in Georgia. To this union God blessed them with two children: Forrest Everett LeCrone Jr (JR) and Charla Jeanne LeCrone Ryel.

Then on January 21, 1977, he married Mary Norton. After their retirement they moved to Sulphur, Oklahoma, to her childhood farm. He loved to raise cattle, fish on the ponds they had, travel, read his Bible, and Louis L'Amour books until his eyesight wouldn't let him. His biggest thrill was spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his children, JR and Diane LeCrone of Eldon, Missouri, and Charla and Steve Ryel of Aline, Oklahoma; two sisters, Patty Ross of Helena, Oklahoma, and Linda and David Wiggins of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; one sister-in-law, Lila LeCrone of Ft. Worth, Texas; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; a number of nieces; nephews and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; parents; two sisters; two brothers; both wives; three grandsons, and two brothers-in-law.

He will be missed but will be remembered for his special heart and his good advice. Fly high cowboy!

Forrest asked that his funeral be casual blue jeans: just be comfortable. Special thanks to the wonderful team at the Elara Hospice, the Commons, preacher John, Lanman Funeral Home and many family and friends who helped Dad through this journey.

Also, there is an account for the Helena Christian Church Youth Group, mainly to help children be able to go to church camp. If giving a memorial in Forrest's name, please make checks out to Helena Christian Church Youth Group through Lanman Funeral Home.

Funeral service for Forrest will be Monday, March 25, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Helena First Christian Church. Burial will follow at Good Hope Cemetery with arrangements by Lanman Funeral Home Inc. of Helena. Viewing will be Sunday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. with family present from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. (www.lanmanfuneralhome.com Facebook: Lanman Funeral Home Inc.)

VICTORIA A. RHOADES



Funeral services for Vickie Rhoades will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 28, 2024, at Bible Baptist Church with Rev. Mike Crysel and Rev. John Clapp officiating.

Interment will follow at the Alva Municipal Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home. There will be a visitation with family present 9-11 a.m. Thursday morning.

Vickie Rhoades, daughter of the late Victor Aldof and Edna (Christiansen) Benning, was born July 9, 1943, at Worthington, Minnesota, and passed away surrounded by her family, on March 25, 2024, at her home at the age of 80 years, 8 months and 16 days.

She was raised in Minnesota where she graduated from Sauk Rapids High School. She eventually moved to Hardtner where she raised her daughters Shelly, Leslie and Cheryl. She worked many years at the Achenbach Facility in the maintenance department. She later

moved to Alva and worked at WalMart for many years. Vickie enjoyed sewing and was a collector of salt and pepper shakers and Christmas Santas.

Besides her parents, Victor and Edna, she was preceded in death by a sister, Shirley Almer.

Vickie is survived by her daughters, Michelle "Shelly" Stephens (of Alva), Leslie Crysel and husband Mike (of Pitkin, Louisiana) and Cheryl Jackson and husband Bud (of Carmen); her brothers, Allen Benning and wife Cheryl (of Minnesota), Floyd Benning and wife Deb (of Florida), Monte Benning and wife Penny (of Minnesota) and Steve Benning (of Maine); and her sisters Delores Storms (of Minnesota), Susan Carmichael (of Arizona) and Joyce Larsen (of Minnesota).

Also surviving are nine grandchildren, Dusty Stephens (of Alva), Mandy McCamey and husband Brandon (of Dacoma), Kristy Lee and husband Cody (of Alva), Colby Crysel (of Geismar, Louisiana), Morgan Roberts and husband Colt (of Watson, Louisiana), Kaleb Crysel and wife Langley (of Baton Rouge, Louisiana), Haley Fowler and husband Michael (of Alva), Jessica Jackson (of Carmen) and Dustin Jackson and wife Ashley (of Cherokee); 13 great-grandchildren, Blakely and Anderson McCamey; Harper and Teagan Lee; Maize Roberts, Kyler, Jazzlynn and Makena Fowler; Aiden Davis; Jack Barker; Gavin Stacey and Oden and Maggie Jackson; one great-grandchild due in a few months; other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Bible Baptist Church.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.marshallfuneralhomes.com.

Big Five Community Services Is Hiring for The Following Position: FAMILY ADVOCATE COVERS ALVA AND FAIRVIEW AREA

Responsible for providing assistance to families with children in the Big Five Head Start program. Shares a general responsibility for the safety and well being of all the children enrolled in the program. Responsible for providing support to the children and families of assigned Head Start centers. Provides information and referral relevant to the needs of the children and families in accordance with requirements of the Head Start Performance Standards. May attend parent meetings and accompany classes on field trips. This position will include transportation of children and substituting in the classroom as needed. Shares in the responsibility for the safety and well-being of children enrolled in the Head Start program. Must be 18 years old and have a High School diploma or GED. Must have within eighteen months of hire, at a minimum, a credential or certification in social work, human services, family services, counseling or a related field. Prefer some college education in Early Childhood Development with work experience assisting low income families. Bilingual preferred. Must have valid driver's license, vehicle liability insurance and a good driving record in order to travel extensively to area Head Start centers and service providers.

Apply Online At: www.bigfive.org Resumes not accept without a completed application. EOE/AA





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WED-THURS 7PM/FRI-MON 2PM & 7PM
APRIL 2-4 7PM NIGHTLY

2024 Easter Egg Walk

Support local businesses on Saturday, March 30, 2024, and get an Easter Punch Card!

Buy items from 5 different stores and get a punch on your card at each one. Drop off your completed card at any participating store or at Daisy Village for a chance to win a prize basket. The lucky winner will be revealed later that day!



Participating stores: Sweet Harper & Co., Burlap Bungalow 319, LaDeeda, Holder Drug, Bates Bows Co. & More, Bar 'S' Outfitters, Schuhmacher's Copper Penny, Daisy Village, Elegant Toad, G&G Home Furnishings, Graceful Arts Center, Rialto, & Lazy Coyote

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TOP SOUTH BARBER VOCALISTS DO WELL AT LEAGUE CONTEST —With their vocal director Erin Place, South Barber High School vocalists competed at the Heart of the Plains League (HOPL) music contest at Burton. Autumn Drake and Tyler Archuleta received an Outstanding rating, a (I), on their solos. James Fox received an Excellent rating, a (II), on his solo performance. The Men's Ensemble also earned a (II) rating. All five boys in the photo are part of the men's ensemble. Vocalist shown left to right are: Nathan McTrick, Dayton Masters, Autumn Drake, Noah Allen, James Fox and Tyler Archuleta.

South Barber Students Premium Performances



ARRINGTON IS THE DEVIANT VILLAIN —Don't let Arrington Allen's innocent, pretty face fool you for a minute that she doesn't enjoy for a second playing the maniacal Mayor of Tumblerock in the South Barber's Drama Class melodrama production. The heroine Rosaline, played by Tanith Erikson, worms the truth out of the corrupt mayor who schemes to bankrupt the people of Tumblerock so that he can buy up all their land and property. Photo by Yvonne Miller



LOST IN TUMBLEROCK, FALLING IN LOVE —Both known for getting lost, that fault ultimately brought these two falling head over heels in love with one another during the South Barber Drama Class comical melodrama performance of "Lost in Tumblerock." As the boisterous Sheriff Simon Shurfire, Jessica Jahay found his kindred spirit, the innocent, ditzy Rosaline Needham who together put on a show as great as the villain was devious. Teacher Meagan Henry directed this laughter-filled play. Photo by Yvonne Miller



HELP ME!!!!!!!!!!!! —As Ma Hartwell, a widow who fills her home with orphan children, "ranch hands" and, and the five "princesses," Autumn Drake is deliciously dramatic. In the SBHS Drama Class production the melodrama, "Lost in Tumblerock," she begs for help to save the family ranch. Teacher Meagan Henry directs the crowd-pleaser. Photo by Yvonne Miller



MY HEART WILL GO ON —Despite all the worries the French Princesses have when their can-can career is threatened, "rincesses" played by Fiona Walz and Trilbey Dorsey have some happy thoughts that probably involve some cow hands at the ranch. Photo by Yvonne Miller

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LOOK ALIVE BOYS FOR THE DANCING PRINCESSES —As Ma Hartwell, Autumn Drake plays the old widow who fears losing the family ranch in the South Barber Drama Class melodrama that brought laughter among the audience as they watched students get into characters like dancing princesses, ranch hands and more predictable characters in "ost on Tumblerock." Here "a" yells at the ranch hands as she attempts to whip them into shape to meet the French "rincesses" coming to visit the ranch. (l-r) Autumn and ranch hands: Lily Schurter, Leo Turner, Brayden Duvall, and Cullen Cox. Photo by Yvonne Miller



OH WHAT IS A GIRL TO DO? —Lily plays Lulu —no lie. Lily Dunham is one of the five French princesses who were on their way to San Francisco to dance the can-can at the Show Palace. Then when their protectors, "Ross" and "Cecil," (who were women disguised as men) were arrested, Lulu didn't know how they would survive. Everytime you see her expression on stage, Lily is in a forlorn state —which brings lots of laughs to those watching her. This was in the SBHS Drama Class melodrama directed by teacher Meagan Henry. Photo by Yvonne Miller

South Barber Elementary February Students of the Month —February Students of the Month, 3rd Grader Tacksen Ricke, and 2nd Grader Linnie Clark pose with their Principal Kaynette Scheck and Superintendent Dr. Mylo Miller.



South Barber's February Students of the Month

Each month South Barber teachers select students for the kindness and leadership they've shown to their classmates, teachers and others at the school. The February Students of the month for February 2024 are: 2nd grade Linnie Clark, 3rd Grade Tacksen Ricke, 7th Grade Easton Molz, and 10th Grade Fiona Walz. Superintendent Dr. Mylo Miller said, "ay to go to this great group of South Barber students!" Dr. Miller gives "big thank you to Kiowa businesses for their support." He listed the Alva State Bank, Kiowa branch; and a t-shirt from Bar M Cotton Company of Kiowa. Students also receive a certificate of recognition, and lunch off campus with the superintendent.



South Barber 7-12 Students of the Month —February Students of the Month, 7th grader Easton Molz and Sophomore Fiona Walz stand with their Superintendent Dr. Mylo Miller and Principal Steven Neal.

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New South Barber Area Chamber of Commerce brings communities together

- Easter Egg Hunt in Kiowa's Progress Park 11:30 a.m. Saturday
- Main Street Market/City-Wide Garage Sale on Saturday, April 27
- New Area Chamber memberships available – benefits

By Yvonne Miller

Leaders in the small communities of Hardtner, Hazelton and Kiowa, Kansas, are in agreement to work together as the newly formed South Barber Area Chamber of Commerce. Gayle McNett, president of the new chamber of commerce, said that Hazelton Mayor Tom Traylor; Hardtner Mayor Denise Donaldson; and Megan Meyer, a Hardtner citizen who is active with the Hardtner Community Center, all serve on the new chamber of commerce's current board of directors. Other members of those communities have attended monthly meetings and begun to be involved as well.

McNett said, "Our ultimate goals are to continue the work of the Kiowa Chamber in promoting economic growth and development in our communities, as well as to provide networking opportunities for local businesses and to advocate for the interests of our members."

This Saturday, everyone who loves the excitement of watching children search for Easter Eggs, well-beyond the South Barber area, is invited to Kiowa's Progress for the big Easter Egg Hunt where the chamber supplies lots of prizes for kiddos. The hunt begins at 11:30 a.m.

"We understand that each community represented in the SB Area Chamber of Commerce is unique," McNett said. "We want to embrace each community's strengths as we also work toward innovative collaboration to strengthen South Barber as a whole."

South Barber's Area Chamber of Commerce meets the second Tuesday of each month over the lunch hour at Sideline in Kiowa.

When asked McNett said most chamber events will continue to take place in Kiowa. She said, "However, as collaboration continues and involvement grows, we anticipate new committees to form, and events supported by the SB Area Chamber to take place in surrounding communities as well. We will certainly keep the community updated as events/activities are added."

The Main Street Market/City-Wide Garage Sale event Saturday, April 27, coincides with the Recreational Soccer Tournament that will bring families from at least six other communities to Kiowa that day. A flyer listing garage sale addresses will be distributed and posted on their Facebook page. Main Street will also be bustling with tables and booths set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many other local businesses will be open.

Besides the two events already mentioned, the new chamber has already approved these dates for the remainder of 2024: Labor Day (Sept. 2), Fall Fest (Oct. 6) and Christmas in the Heartland (Dec. 7).

New Officers, Membership and Benefits

Officers of the new South Barber Area Chamber of Commerce are President Gayle McNett, Vice President Shelby Nielson, Secretary Jenna Mostert and Treasurer Chantel Molz.

When asked how the idea of creating

a new area chamber came to fruition, McNett said, "Through discussions concerning the sustainability of the current chamber. Concerns about the declining population and involvement in our area spurred the idea of collaborating with adjoining communities. In addition, the suggestion of transitioning the chamber to a non-profit organization was introduced. After positive conversations with leadership from those communities and discussion among those currently involved with the chamber, a vote to expand the membership area, make the name change, and transition to a non-profit organization passed."

McNett said they want membership to be available to all local businesses, organizations and individuals who have a desire to be involved. Membership options now include an individual "Friends of the Chamber" rate of \$50, a senior citizen individual rate of \$35, a non-profit/school/church rate of \$75, and a classic membership rate of \$100. "We are also encouraging local youth entrepreneurs to get involved," she said.

How can membership benefit you? McNett explained current member benefits for businesses are participation in the Chamber Bucks Program, access to the chamber's Facebook page and social media marketing. "We are working diligently to further develop our membership benefits to include business listings and job postings on a chamber website, professional training workshops, networking opportunities and more."

If you are an individual, business or organization in the South Barber area and would like more membership information, please email southbarberchamber@gmail.com.



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From Page 18 **Texas**

year ago appeared imperiled by both the criminal case and the threat of being removed from office after his top aides reported him to the FBI.

But Paxton has emerged emboldened. He waged war against dozens of GOP lawmakers who were part of the 2023 effort to impeach him, with his biggest target being state House Speaker Dade Phelan, who was forced into a May 28 runoff. He has also not ruled out a primary challenge to Republican Sen. John Cornyn in 2026.

Paxton still faces legal troubles, however. A federal investigation has been probing some of the same charges presented in his impeachment and former aides who reported Paxton to the FBI are trying to make him testify in a whistleblower civil lawsuit.

The securities fraud case has hung over Paxton nearly his entire time in statewide office. Yet Paxton, 61, has shown political resilience time and again, winning over conservative activists, and importantly within the GOP, former

President Donald Trump.

Paxton had been accused of defrauding investors in a Dallas-area tech company called Servery by not disclosing that he was being paid by the company to recruit them. He was charged with two counts of securities fraud and one count of not being registered as an investment adviser.

James Spindler, a professor of business and law at the University of Texas at Austin, said it was surprising that Paxton even faced a felony prosecution. He described one of the charges — failing to register as an investment adviser — as a technical violation and said most similar cases are settled as civil lawsuits.

Legal experts have said over the years that the longer the case drags on, the harder it would be for both sides.

The amount of time that has lapsed could put the credibility of testimony in doubt, Spindler said Monday, before the deal was announced.

“That can be kind of a mess

sometimes,” Spindler said.

Paxton was also charged in a federal civil complaint filed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission over his work with Servery. But a federal judge in March 2017 dismissed the complaint against Paxton. The person who recruited Paxton to work with Servery, ex-company CEO William Mapp, was found liable by a jury for misleading investors and ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$22,500. Mapp lost his job with Servery and later had to work as an Uber driver to make ends meet, according to court documents.

The fraud allegations were among the original 20 articles of impeachment but were set aside during the impeachment trial in the Texas Senate last year.

Paxton’s political opponents, most notably Republicans, had used the fraud charges against him in elections. But Paxton has twice been reelected as attorney general since his indictment, most recently in 2022.

Kansas legislators pass a bill to require providers to ask patients why they want abortions

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Republican legislators gave final approval Tuesday to a bill that would require Kansas abortion providers to ask their patients why they want to terminate their pregnancies and then report the answers to the state.

The Senate approved the bill 27-13 after the House approved it earlier this month, sending the measure to Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly. She is a strong abortion rights supporter and is expected to veto the bill, but supporters appear to have exactly the two-thirds majorities in both chambers they would need to override a veto.

At least eight states require similar reporting, but none of them has had a statewide vote on abortion rights as Kansas did in August 2022. In the first state ballot question on abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision, voters decisively protected abortion rights under the state constitution.

Democrats are frustrated because Republicans and anti-abortion groups have pursued new rules for abortion providers despite the 2022 vote. But supporters of the reporting bill say it would give the state better data that

would help legislators make policy decisions.

The bill would require providers to ask patients 11 questions about their reasons for terminating a pregnancy, including that they can’t afford another child, raising a child would hinder their education or careers, or a spouse or partner wanted her to have an abortion. A woman would not be required to answer, however.

The bill also would require providers to report each patient’s age, marital status, race and education level, while using a “confidential code” for each patient so that they wouldn’t be identified to the state. The state would be barred for at least five years from identifying the abortion providers in the data it publishes.

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Immediately following the service, we will gather in front of the church for a group photo. After the photo, we will enjoy a free catered meal in the Fellowship Room.

Be sure to RSVP by April 7th to the Church Office!

An afternoon of Music is planned for April 21st at 2 pm at Zion, presented by church member musicians. Zion feels blessed to have been planted in our community 125 years ago to be a witness to God's grace through his Son, Jesus Christ.

We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

Baltimore bridge collapses after powerless cargo ship rams into support column; 6 presumed dead

By Lea Skene

BALTIMORE (AP) — A cargo ship lost power and rammed into a major bridge in Baltimore early Tuesday, destroying the span in a matter of seconds and plunging it into the river in a terrifying collapse that could disrupt a vital shipping port for months. Six people were missing and presumed dead.

The ship's crew issued a mayday call moments before the crash took down the Francis Scott Key Bridge, enabling authorities to limit vehicle traffic on the span, Maryland's governor said.

The ship struck one of the bridge's supports, causing the structure to collapse like a toy. A section of the span came to rest on the bow of the vessel, which caught fire, and thick, black smoke billowed out of it.

With the ship barreling toward the bridge at "a very, very rapid speed," authorities had just enough time to stop cars from coming over the bridge, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said.

"These people are heroes," Moore said. "They saved lives last night."

The crash happened in the middle of the night, long before the busy morning commute on the bridge that stretches 1.6 miles (2.6 km) and was used by 12 million vehicles last year.

The six people still unaccounted for were part of a construction crew filling potholes on the bridge, said Paul Wiedefeld, the state's transportation secretary.

A senior executive at the company that employed the workers said Tuesday

afternoon that they were presumed dead, given the water's depth and the length of time since the crash.

Jeffrey Pritzker, executive vice president of Brawner Builders, said the crew was working in the middle of the bridge when it came down. No bodies have been recovered, and rescue crews continued the search into the late afternoon.

"This was so completely unforeseen," Pritzker said. "We don't know what else to say. We take such great pride in safety, and we have cones and signs and lights and barriers and flaggers. But we never foresaw that the bridge would collapse."

Jesus Campos, who has worked on the bridge for Brawner Builders and knows members of the crew, said he was told they were on a break and some were sitting in their trucks when the bridge went down.

"I know that a month ago, I was there, and I know what it feels like when the trailers pass," Campos said. "Imagine knowing that is falling. It is so hard, one would not know what to do."

Rescuers pulled two people out of the water. One person was treated at a hospital and discharged hours later. Multiple vehicles also went into the river, although authorities did not believe anyone was inside.

"It looked like something out of an action movie," said Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, calling it "an unthinkable tragedy."

A police dispatcher put out a call just before the collapse saying a

ship had lost its steering and asked officers to stop all traffic, according to Maryland Transportation Authority first responder radio traffic obtained from the Broadcastify.com archive.

One officer who stopped traffic radioed that he was going to drive onto the bridge to alert the construction crew. But seconds later, a frantic officer said: "The whole bridge just fell down. Start, start whoever, everybody ... the whole bridge just collapsed."

On a separate radio channel for maintenance and construction workers, someone said officers were stopping traffic because a ship had lost steering. There was no follow-up order to evacuate, and 30 seconds later the bridge fell and the channel went silent.

From 1960 to 2015, there were 35 major bridge collapses worldwide due to ship or barge collision, according to the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure.

The collapse is sure to create a logistical nightmare for months, if not years, along the East Coast, shutting down ship traffic at the Port of Baltimore, a major shipping hub. The accident will also snarl cargo and commuter traffic.

"Losing this bridge will devastate the entire area, as well as the entire East Coast," Maryland state Sen. Johnny Ray Salling said.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, speaking at a news conference near the site, said it was too soon to estimate how long it will take to clear the channel, which is about 50 feet (15 meters) deep.

"I do not know of a bridge that has been constructed to withstand a direct impact from a vessel of this size," he said.

Synergy Marine Group — which manages the ship, called the Dali — confirmed the vessel hit a pillar of the bridge at about 1:30 a.m. while in control of one or more pilots, who are local specialists who help guide vessels safely into ports. The ship is owned by Grace Ocean Private Ltd.

Synergy said all crew members and the two pilots on board were accounted for, and there were no reports of any injuries.

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See Baltimore Page 35

From Page 34 **Baltimore**

The ship was moving at 8 knots, roughly 9 mph (14.8 kph), the governor said.

Jagged remnants of the bridge could be seen jutting up from the water's surface. The on-ramp ended abruptly where the span once began.

Donald Heinbuch, a retired chief with Baltimore's fire department, said he was startled awake by a deep rumbling that shook his house for several seconds. "It felt like an earthquake," he said.

He drove to the river's edge and couldn't believe what he saw.

"The ship was there, and the bridge was in the water, like it was blown up," he said.

The bridge spans the Patapsco River at the entrance to a busy harbor, which leads to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Opened in 1977, the bridge is named for the writer of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Wiedefeld said all vessel traffic into

and out of the port would be suspended until further notice, though the facility was still open to trucks.

President Joe Biden said he planned to travel to Baltimore and intends for the federal government to pick up the entire cost of rebuilding.

"This is going to take some time," Biden said. "The people of Baltimore can count on us, though, to stick with them at every step of the way until the port is reopened and the bridge is rebuilt."

The Dali was headed from Baltimore to Colombo, Sri Lanka, and flying under a Singapore flag, according to data from Marine Traffic. The container ship is about 985 feet (300 meters) long and about 157 feet (48 meters) wide, according to the website.

Inspectors found a problem with the Dali's machinery in June, but a more recent examination did not identify any deficiencies, according to the shipping information system Equasis.

Danish shipping giant Maersk said it had chartered the vessel.

Last year, the Port of Baltimore handled a record 52.3 million tons of foreign cargo worth \$80 billion, according to the state.

The head of a supply chain management company said Americans should expect shortages of goods from the effect of the collapse on ocean container shipping and East Coast trucking.

"It's not just the port of Baltimore that's going to be impacted," said Ryan Petersen, CEO of Flexport.

The collapse, though, is not likely to hurt worldwide trade because Baltimore is not a major port for container vessels, but its facilities are more important when it comes to goods such as farm equipment and autos, said Judah Levine, head of research for global freight booking platform Freightos.

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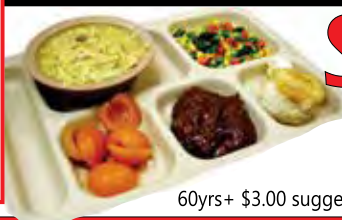
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Polish Sausage Oven Fried Potatoes Seasoned Cabbage Yeast Roll w/Margarine Kiwi Bar	Chicken Brunswick Stew Mixed Fruit in Jell-O Cornbread w/Margarine Chocolate Chip Cookie	CLOSED	Meatloaf w/Catsup Topping Mashed Potatoes w/Cream Gravy Mixed Vegetables Yeast Rolls w/Margarine Tapioca Pudding	Ham & Beans Sliced Onions Spinach Tomato Spoon Relish Cornbread w/Margarine Cinnamon Roll
WED., APR. 3	THURS., APR. 4	FRI., APR. 5	MON., APR. 8	TUES., APR. 9
Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich Potato Wedges Mixed Fruit Lemon Cookie	Baked Chicken Cornbread Dressing & Gravy Carrots Cauliflower Biscuits w/Margarine Fruited Jell-O	CLOSED	Frito Chili Pie Onions, Cheese, Sour Cream Mexican Street Corn Strawberries & Peaches Sugar Cookie	Tuscan Chicken Mashed Potatoes Roasted Zucchini & Yellow Squash Garlic Bread Brownie

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Israel and Hamas dig in as international pressure builds for a cease-fire in Gaza

By Tia Goldenberg, Jack Jeffery and Wafaa Shurafa

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday blasted a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a Gaza cease-fire that his country's top ally, the United States, chose not to block. He said the resolution had emboldened Hamas and he vowed to press ahead with the war.

As the war grinds through a sixth month, both Israel and Hamas have rejected international cease-fire efforts, each insisting its version of victory is within reach. The passage of the U.N. resolution has also escalated tensions between the U.S. and Israel over the conduct of the war.

Netanyahu has said Israel can only achieve its aims of dismantling Hamas and returning scores of hostages if it expands its ground offensive to the southern city of Rafah, where over half of Gaza's population has sought refuge, many in crowded tent camps. The U.S. has said a major assault on Rafah would be a mistake.

Hamas says it will hold onto the hostages until Israel agrees to a more permanent cease-fire, withdraws its forces from Gaza and releases hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including top militants. It said late Monday that it rejected a recent proposal that fell short of those demands — which, if fulfilled, would allow it to claim an extremely costly victory.

Netanyahu said in a statement that the announcement “proved clearly that Hamas is not interested in continuing negotiations toward a deal and served as unfortunate testimony to the damage of the Security Council decision.”

“Israel will not surrender to Hamas’ delusional demands and will continue to act to achieve all the goals of the war: releasing all the hostages, destroying Hamas’ military and governing capabilities and ensuring that Gaza will never again be a threat to Israel.”

Israel has killed over 32,000 Palestinians, around two-thirds of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its tally. The fighting has left much of the Gaza Strip in ruins, displaced most its residents and driven

a third of its population of 2.3 million to the brink of famine.

The Israeli military announced Tuesday that an airstrike earlier this month killed Marwan Issa, the deputy leader of Hamas’ armed wing in Gaza who helped plan the Oct. 7 attack. Issa is the highest-ranking Hamas leader to have been killed in Gaza since the start of the war. Military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said Issa was killed when fighter jets struck an underground compound in central Gaza between March 9 and 10.

An Israeli strike late Monday on a residential building in Rafah where three displaced families were sheltering killed at least 16 people, including nine children and four women, according to hospital records and relatives of the deceased. An Associated Press reporter saw the bodies arrive at a hospital.

In the face of Hamas’ demands for a more permanent cease-fire, Netanyahu has vowed to resume Israel’s offensive after any hostage release and keep fighting until the militant group is destroyed. But he has provided few details about what would follow any such victory and has largely rejected a postwar vision outlined by the U.S.

That approach has brought him into increasingly open conflict with President Joe Biden’s administration, which has expressed mounting concern over civilian casualties — though it has continued to supply Israel with crucial military aid and back Israel’s aim of destroying Hamas.

The passage of Monday’s resolution by the U.N. Security Council resolution further deepened the divisions. The resolution called for the release of all hostages held in Gaza but did not condition the cease-fire on it. The Biden administration, which vetoed previous U.N. resolutions calling for a cease-fire, abstained in Monday’s vote, allowing it to pass.

In response, Netanyahu cancelled a planned visit by Israeli officials to Washington during which the U.S. side was set to propose alternatives to a ground assault in Rafah.

The move raised criticism in Israeli media that Netanyahu was straining Israel’s most important alliance in order to placate hard-liners in his governing

coalition.

“He is prepared to sacrifice Israel’s relations with the United States for a short-lived political-media coup. He has completely lost it,” Ben Caspit, a prominent columnist in the Israeli newspaper Maariv, wrote.

He said Netanyahu has been trying U.S. patience by dragging his feet on ensuring more humanitarian aid gets into Gaza and on drawing up post-war plans. “Now, instead of doing everything to placate them, he is flailing about like a baby throwing a tantrum.”

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, in Washington on a separate trip, held talks Tuesday with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and with top U.S. defense leaders.

Ahead of the meeting, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin described civilian casualties in Gaza as “far too high” and aid deliveries as “far too low.” But he also repeated the belief that Israel has the right to defend itself and the U.S. would always be there to help.

Gallant said he told Blinken “that Israel will not cease operating in Gaza until the return of all the hostages. Only a decisive victory will bring to an end of this war.”

Hamas’ top political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, said the U.N. resolution showed that Israel faces “an unprecedented (level of) political isolation” and was “losing its political cover” at the Security Council. He spoke at a press conference in Tehran after talks with officials in Iran, a key ally of Hamas.

The war began on Oct. 7, when Hamas-led militants stormed across the border and attacked communities in southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 others. It is still believed to be holding about 100 hostages and the remains of 35 others, after most of the rest were freed in November in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent several weeks trying to negotiate another cease-fire and hostage release, but those efforts appeared to have stalled.

Majed al-Ansari, a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of Qatar, which is

See Israel Page 40

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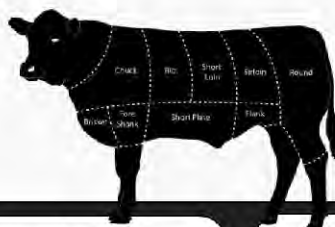
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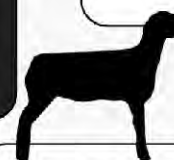


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Kansas moves to join Texas and other states in requiring porn sites to verify people's ages

By John Hanna and Sean Murphy

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas is poised to require pornography websites to verify visitors are adults, a move that would follow Texas and a handful of other states despite concerns about privacy and how broadly the law could be applied.

The Republican-controlled Kansas Legislature passed the proposal Tuesday, sending it to Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly. The House voted for it 92-31 and the Senate approved it unanimously last month. Kelly hasn't announced her plans, but she typically signs bills with bipartisan backing, and supporters have enough votes to override a veto anyway.

At least eight states have enacted age-verification laws since 2022 — Texas, Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Utah and Virginia, and lawmakers have introduced proposals in more than 20 other states, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures and an analysis from The Associated Press of data from the Plural bill-tracking service.

Weeks ago, a federal appeals court upheld the Texas age-verification requirement as constitutional and the Oklahoma House sent a similar measure to the state Senate.

Supporters argue that they're protecting children from widespread pornography online. Oklahoma Rep. Toni Hasenbeck, a sponsor of the legislation, said pornography is dramatically more available now than when "there might be a sixth-grade boy who would find a Playboy magazine in a ditch somewhere."

"What is commonplace in our society

is for a child to be alone with their digital device in their bedroom," said Hasenbeck, a Republican representing a rural southwest Oklahoma district.

In Kansas, some critics questioned whether the measure would violate free speech and press rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. Last year, that issue was raised in a federal lawsuit over the Texas law from the Free Speech Coalition, a trade association for the adult entertainment industry.

A three-judge panel of the conservative, New Orleans-based Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that Texas' age-verification requirement did not violate the First Amendment. The judges concluded that such a law can stand as long as a state has a rational basis for it and states have a legitimate interest in blocking minors' access to pornography.

The Kansas bill would make it a violation of state consumer protection laws for a website to fail to verify that a Kansas visitor is 18 if the website has material "harmful to minors." The attorney general then could go to court seeking a fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation. Parents also could sue for damages of at least \$50,000.

Under an existing Kansas criminal law, material is harmful to minors if it involves "nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement or sadomasochistic abuse."

But critics of the bill, mostly Democrats, argued that the law could be interpreted broadly enough that LGBTQ+ teenagers could not access information about sexual orientation or gender identity because the legal

definition of sexual conduct includes acts of "homosexuality." That means "being who we are" is defined as harmful to minors, said Rep. Brandon Woodard, who is gay and a Kansas City-area Democrat.

Woodard also said opponents don't understand "how technology works." He said people could bypass an age-verification requirement by accessing pornography through the dark web or unregulated social media sites.

Other lawmakers questioned whether the state could prevent websites based outside Kansas from retaining people's personal information.

"The information used to verify a person's age could fall into the hands of entities who could use it for fraudulent purposes," said southeastern Kansas Rep. Ken Collins, one of two Republicans to vote against the bill.

Yet even critics acknowledged parents and other constituents have a strong interest in keeping minors from seeing pornography. Another southeastern Kansas Republican, Rep. Chuck Smith, chided the House because it didn't approve the bill unanimously, as the Senate did.

"Kids need to be protected," he said. "Everybody in here knows what pornography is — everybody."

From Page 38 Israel

currently hosting the talks, told reporters that the negotiations were still ongoing, without providing details.

Hamas has previously proposed a phased process in which it would release all the remaining hostages in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the opening of its borders for aid and reconstruction, and the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including top militants serving life sentences.



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the food, cards, flowers, prayers, visits, phone calls, and
memorials for the library.

Thank you to Sacred Heart Church, Father Bala, and
Wharton's Funeral Home for the wonderful service for Tom,
especially the lovely wake the previous day. Thank you to the
Altar Society Women who prepared the delicious dinner.

Special thanks go to the pianist, Sally Nighswonger, and
the soloist, Amanda Hughes. Thank you especially to the
military soldiers who presented the flag to the family
accompanied by Taps.

**Thank You
so much!**

*Angela Reid; RT Reid and family;
Eric Reid and family;
Shannon Reid and family*

Alfalfa County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 897, page 893: The Danny Lee Nelson and Julianne L. Nelson Revocable Living Trust conveys unto The Forrest H. Nelson Trust. UND half interest in the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 20, Township 27N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 897, page 897: The Diane Kay Miller Revocable Inter Vivos Trust conveys unto the Forrest H. Nelson Trust. UND half interest in the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 20, Township 27N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 897, page 912: Cody L. Puffinbarger conveys unto Adam T. Rust and Emily M. Rust. A part of the southeast quarter of Section 31, Township 27N, Range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 897, page 975: Ky Ann Buck conveys unto Ky Ann Buck, as trustee of the Ky Ann Buck Trust. Southwest quarter of Section 25, Township 25N, Range 11, WIM, including any and all

reversionary right in that tract containing 4.59 acres, more or less, pursuant to the Special Warranty Deed field in Book 708, pages 601-602. Warranty deed.

Book 898, page 9: Jane A. Tucker, trustee of the Tucker Family Trust, conveys unto Chantz R. Tucker and Madeline Tucker. The north half of the north half of the northeast quarter Section 23, Township 28N, Range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 898, page 18: The Billy Jackson and Mary Jackson Revocable Trust conveys unto Dale E. Cummins and Apryle L. Cummins Revocable Trust. Lots 3 through 5 in Block 38 in the Town of Helena, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 898, page 32: Warren L. Kirkendall and Rita J. Anthony convey unto Terry G. Ryel. The southeast quarter of Section 7, Township 23 north, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Warranty deed.

Book 898, page 135: George Edgar Myrick and Johnny Myrick and Shelby

Myrick convey unto Christopher Michael Tucker and Troyce Dennee Tucker. The south 40 acres of the east 80 acres of the northwest quarter, also known as the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 28, Township 26N, Range 9, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 899, page 149: Keller Family Revocable Trust conveys unto Jimmy Bourlon. Lots 7 through 9 in Block 4, in the original town of Carmen, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 889, page 153: Caleb Walborn and Shania Walborn convey unto Caleb Walborn. Lot 6 in Block 2 in Pryor's Addition to the City of Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Individual quit claim deed.

Mortgages

Book 898, page 35: Terry G. Ryel to Gateway First Bank. The southeast quarter of Section 7, Township 23 north, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Note: \$221,691.00.

Book 898, page 59: Bo Ferrell and Megan Ferrell to Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma. The northwest quarter of Section, Township 27N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: \$300,000.00.

Book 898, page 156: Caleb Walborn to ACB Bank. Lot 6 in Block 2 in Pryor's Addition to the City of Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: \$22,189.87.

Book 898, page 115: Heather Dawn Kreiman to Communication Federal Credit Union. A portion of the southeast quarter of Section 3, Township 26N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Note: \$35,000.00.

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

During this day were four traffic stops.

9:11 a.m. — Report of a semi vs. pickup accident on US-64 and County Road 540. No medical transport needed.

3:52 p.m. — Caller advised a male was at her home yelling and screaming in their friend's face about her dog coming after him and threatening to kill the dog. Dispatch could hear the male yelling in the background.

5:18 p.m. — Medic needed in the 200 block of 6th Street for a female who was unresponsive. Medic en route. No transport needed.

5:27 p.m. — Caller advised their neighbor was flipping out, yelling and beating on things. Officers was advised.

6:34 p.m. — Caller advised of a shed on fire by the City Park. Cherokee Fire Department responded. CFD advised it was a chicken coop and the fire was out.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

During this day were three traffic stops.

4:47 a.m. — Caller advised something had started a fire under his house. Advised he put the fire out, but it started up again. He stated he put it out the second time and now it's smoldering. Jet Fire Department advised they had it under control.

6:56 a.m. — Caller advised he hit a deer on OK-11 between county roads 660 and 670. Advised the deer was still alive in the ditch.

8:26 a.m. — Caller ad-

vised of people snooping on her dad's property in the 200 block of Texas. Caller gave a description of the vehicle. Officer advised and was unable to locate the vehicle at the time.

9:12 a.m. — Medic needed in the 400 block of Oklahoma for a male having chest pains. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

11:02 p.m. — Officer requested on 6th Street for a disturbance. Report of a possible fight but upon arrival of the officer, the occupants were just goofing off and being loud.

Thursday, March 21, 2024

During this day were two traffic stops and one report of cattle out.

12:30 a.m. — Report of a noise complaint on Persimmon Lane. Caller stated the individuals were high on meth, yelling and shouting in their backyard. Deputy en route. Deputy didn't make contact with anyone but stated he would stay in the area in case anything happens again.

1:43 a.m. — Caller advised they had called earlier about the noise complaint and the individuals were back at her fence banging on things harassing her. Deputy was told go back to Nescatunga. At 2:14 a.m. the caller called dispatch back and said that dispatch put words in her mouth and advised she records her calls and said a few other words and hung up.

2:09 a.m. — Medic needed in the 200 block of 4th Street

See Sheriff Page 45

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From Page 44 Sheriff

for a female having difficulty breathing. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

4 a.m. – Caller advised their neighbor's car horn had been going off for 20 minutes and they are trying to sleep. Caller advised she does this every night, all night long. Advised she creates a disturbance when anyone passes by her house. At 4:17 a.m. a second complaint came in about the horn. Deputy en route. When deputy arrived, there was no horn sounding. Advised he was staying in the area to see if it happens again.

9:42 a.m. – Caller advised her neighbor is parking in the street meeting meth heads and no one can drive around him. Stated she was going to go get her gun. Caller called back a second time yelling about the neighbor parking in the road and then hung up. Deputy en route. When deputy arrived, no one was home.

10:17 a.m. – Report of a suspicious vehicle in the alley between 9th and 10th streets with no one in it. Officer spoke with the vehicle owner who advised the vehicle had broken down and will get it moved as soon as they can.

11:55 a.m. – Caller advised their neighbor in the 200 block of Massachusetts was out in the yard with her pants down "mooning" him. Officer advised and spoke with the subject. Officer left the scene but advised if another call comes from that address, to send two officers.

3:15 p.m. – Report of a copper theft on OK-58 and McClain.

8:11 p.m. – Welfare check needed on the Aline Blacktop

for a female from a domestic the day before. Deputy made contact and all was okay.

8:45 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver on US-64. OHP and deputies advised.

Friday, March 22, 2024

During this day were three traffic stops and one controlled burn.

10:56 a.m. – Report of an animal complaint in the 200 block of 3rd Street for an animal left there.

12:17 p.m. – Medic needed in the 200 block of Fair Oaks for a female within infected jaw. Advised she had been to the ER but is still in a lot of pain. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

Saturday, March 23, 2024

During this day were two traffic stops.

12:07 a.m. – Report of a suspicious vehicle on Garvin Road and County Road 620. Caller advised they had a break in at the location on Sunday and put up a camera in case a vehicle arrived. The camera was triggered, showing an unknown truck on the property.

9:44 a.m. – Caller advised of a dog complaint at 10th Street and Pennsylvania. Advised the dog has no food or water. There is a doghouse, but the dog is cold. Caller has been giving the dog food and water and would like to foster the dog, if the owners don't want to take care of it.

10:06 a.m. – A manager at Dollar General called and requested an officer to remove a couple from the property.

2:35 p.m. – Report of a noise complaint in the Alley between

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See Sheriff 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.

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

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

Thursday

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

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

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

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

Friday

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

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From Page 45 Sheriff

Grand and Kansas in the 900 block. Advised they have had multiple issues with the subject and have called and complained multiple times. Advised the subject is blaming his music so loud they can hear it in their home. Advised they have tried to ignore it but it's getting more and more frequent and louder. Officer en route. Officer advised they had already turned the music down.

7:20 p.m. – Caller advised two people were fighting in the 900 block of Grand. A female got on the phone and stated she had been bit by a dog but all was okay. Officer en route. Officer advised the female refused medical treatment.

Sunday, March 24, 2024

4:30 a.m. – Medic needed for a lift assist.

5:35 a.m. – Report of an old school-house on fire on Garvin Road and County Road 630. Cherokee Fire Department advised the fire was out.

8:44 a.m. – Reporting party advised her neighbor has been harassing and

stalking her. Advised they also have stolen wood. Advised she doesn't want to speak to a deputy, but she has video she will give him.

12:14 p.m. – Report of a grass fire on Choctaw Road. Helena Fire Department was requested.

7:09 p.m. – Reporting party requested to talk to a deputy about death threats, bomb threats and other threats his daughter had been receiving from a boy who lives in Cherokee. Deputy en route to try to contact the subject.

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