

**THE ALVA  
REVIEW  
COURIER**

# NEWSGRAM

VOLUME 43, NO. 5 • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023 • 50¢  
620 CHOCTAW, ALVA, OKLAHOMA 73717

Woods County  
loses over half a  
million in taxes due  
to ruling

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Breya Beck

# Officer Highlight

By Breya Beck

Breya Beck is currently serving as the 2022-2023 Waynoka FFA chapter reporter. She is the daughter of Britni Beck and has four siblings: Brylee, Briston, Jay and Brexton. She has been in FFA for three years and is a sophomore in high school. Her SAE project is showing pigs.

Outside of FFA she enjoys basketball, softball and track. Her favorite thing about FFA is all of the people she has met and the experiences she has had along the way. Her friends and family got her into the FFA showing pigs and judging livestock. After high school, Breya plans to attend college to become a counselor.

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 Alva Review-Courier 580-327-2200  
 Newsgram 580-327-1510  
 FAX 580-327-2454  
 www.alvareviewcourier.com  
 E-Mail: manager@alvareviewcourier.net  
 news@alvareviewcourier.net  
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# McMurphy, Lancaster, Meyer re-elected to fair board

By Marione Martin

The regular meeting of the Woods County Board of Commissioners was canceled last Monday, Jan. 23. Instead the commissioners met on Wednesday morning, Jan. 25.

With all three commissioners present, the first order of business was to elect a vice-chairman of the board. John Smiley was elected chairman the previous week. David Hamil nominated Randy McMurphy for the office, and Smiley seconded. McMurphy was approved unanimously. He will be in charge of meetings if Smiley is absent.

After approving the Jan. 9 meeting minutes, the commissioners considered three road crossing permits. They approved the D & B Oilfield Services crossing and the Recoil Oilfield Services LLC crossing, both in District 3 as well as the Williams Midstream Gas Service crossing in District 1.

Williams Midstream gas line is from 35-28-15 to 36-28-15 with a permit fee of \$1,000.

The D & B Oilfield Services crossing is for a water line from 33-24-13 to 18-23-13 with a fee of \$1,000.

The Recoil Oilfield Services permit is also for a water line from 33-24-13 to 16-24-13 with a fee of \$1,500.

The following monthly reports were approved:

- Election Board Balance \$ 6,349.08
- Sheriff's Office Collections \$2,909.58
- Board of Prisoners Expense \$7,080.40

The 2023 Fair Board Election shows that Cody McMurphy, Kelli Lancaster and Brooke Meyer have been re-elected. After approving the results, the commissioners also approved changing the fair board requisition officer from Kevin Pingelton to Jason Hembree.

A request to use the courthouse stage and lawn was approved for the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Jazz Ensemble. The event is scheduled for April 27.

The commissioners voted to approve the transfer of appropriations from Highway District 1 and District 2 CIRB to Highway District 1 and District 2 personal services in the amount of \$13,823.34 each.

McMurphy made a motion to

transfer funds from District 2 CBIR to the ETR fund for payment in the amount of \$10,000. It was seconded by Hamil and approved. This is a payment on a no-interest loan McMurphy secured previously for road materials.

A resolution between American Fidelity Assurance and the county was approved.

The 2023 Employee Personnel Policy Handbook and Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy were approved. McMurphy said the ACCO (Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma) guidelines were used. Those employed in safety-sensitive jobs or driving county vehicles will be subject to drug and alcohol testing.

The commissioners approved an agreement with the Department of Corrections (DOC) Community Sentencing for private supervision of community sentencing offenders. McMurphy said he is involved with that board. The county acts as a pass-through by paying the counselor and then being reimbursed by the DOC.

In final action, the commissioners approved blanket purchase orders before adjourning.

### Monday, January 30, Meeting

The Woods County Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, Jan. 30, with all three commissioners present.

Two road permits for Alfalfa Electric Cooperative were approved for District 3. Both are for electric overhead lines so there was no fee. One line is from 23-23-13 to 14-23-13. The other is from 24-23-13 to 13-23-13.

The commissioners approved accepting a donation of \$7,720 from BNSF railroad to the Sheriff's Department for the purchase of a drone.

The opening of a new fund for Safe Oklahoma was approved. This account will be to track grants to the Sheriff's Department from Safe Oklahoma.

David Hamil made a motion to approve the State Line Bridge Agreement with Barber County, seconded by Randy McMurphy. The motion was approved unanimously. The agreement is for mutual maintenance of a bridge that crosses the state line.

The commissioners approved



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**Speakers:**

Mike Johnson - Sales Rep., Albaugh

Dennis Christie - Agronomist, Winfield United

Greg Birdwell - District Sales Manager, Winfield United

**Topics:**

Grain Sorghum

Forage Sorghum

Nozzle Selection

Coaxium Wheat System

**Please RSVP by WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023, by calling  
Mat Campbell (580) 216-1413 or Connor Dimmick (580) 430-6302**

# Remembering fun times from childhood

By Marione Martin

What activities do you remember enjoying when you were young? I don't mean the big things like a trip to Disney World. I'm thinking about the everyday fun stuff.



Before I started school (which was age six back then), we lived on a farm. I loved going for family walks in the woods. It gave our parents time

to relax and talk while we kids ran ahead to explore interesting plants and flowers or a funny-shaped rock. There were plenty of rocks in Missouri.

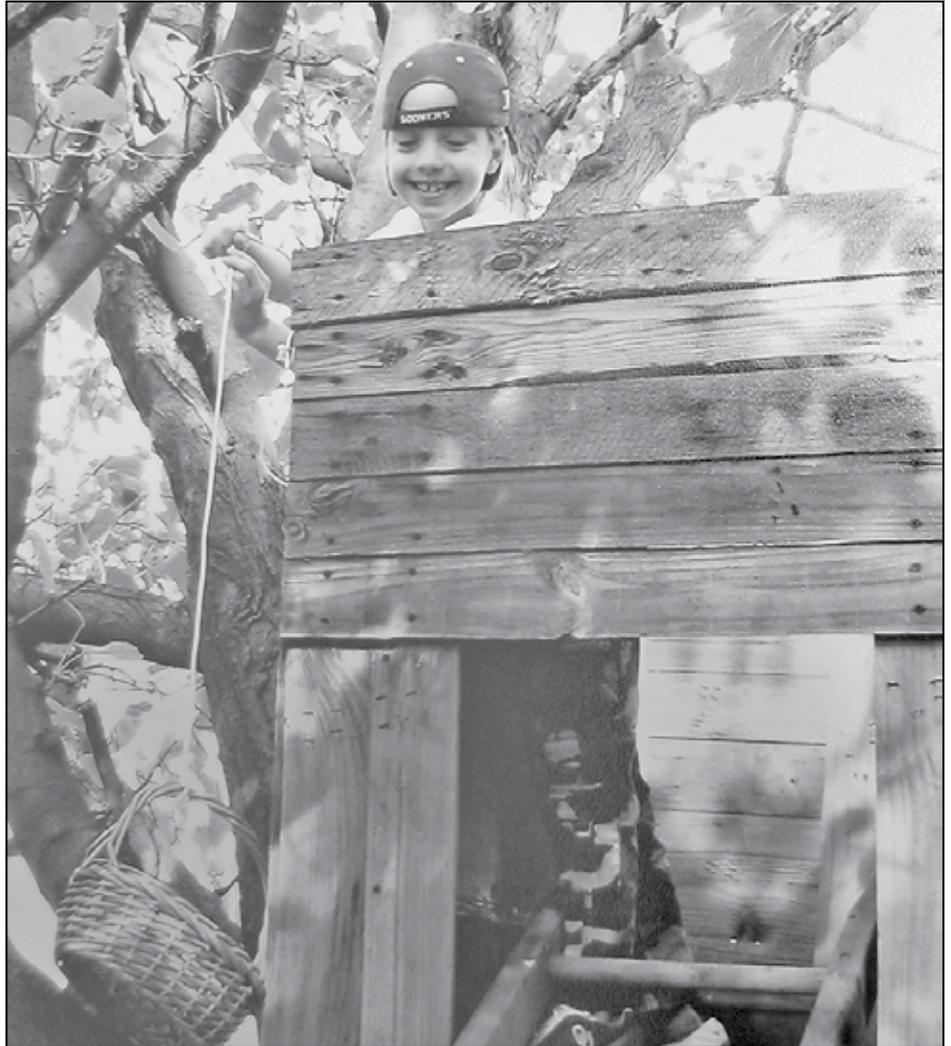
The walks usually ended at a shallow creek with a rocky bluff on the other bank. To me it looked like a mountain. My older brother would cross the creek and climb to the top, but I was too young to scale the heights.

I enjoyed those walks so much that I talked my younger brother into a walk without the grownups. I was perhaps five, and he would have been three. I recognized the landmarks along our usual path and had a great time. He was a bit more nervous but hung in for the duration. After all, he didn't know the way back home.

It wasn't until we exited the woods that we knew we were in trouble. Our parents, older brother and a few friends were searching for us. We learned that unescorted trips to the woods were strictly off limits!

In later years, when I finally learned to ride a bicycle, my younger brother and I spent many happy summer hours cruising Green Street. It was a lightly-traveled paved residential street with a slight slope ideal for bikes. Several friends from the neighborhood would join us. The boys made up tricks like coasting along with feet on the bike seat and hands lighting touching the handlebars or even balancing while standing. Our homes were a few blocks away if we needed refreshments, a bathroom break or a bandage after a mishap.

A text message from my oldest granddaughter Kat sent me on this path of remembrance. Sunday after church I was gathering up laundry when she asked if I had any pictures of the treehouse we had



**Granddaughter Kat, who was in her daring tomboy phase, raises a treat-containing basket to her tree house perch.**

in the back yard. After a couple of tries, I found the right photo stash containing several views. It brought back memories of fun with grandchildren.

I'm not sure who originated the idea, but I know Kat was strongly in favor of a tree house. At age eight, she was always up for an adventure. She loved climbing the trees at our house so I guess a tree house was a logical next step.

Kat talked her dad into fulfilling her dream. After receiving permission for construction in our back yard tree, he needed lumber. Having just finished college, his budget didn't cover new materials. We had a little scrap lumber at the newspaper office and a lot of wooden shipping pallets. Those pallets became the floor and walls with boards pried from other pallets to fill in the

spaces. It took a lot of sanding, some sawing and a bunch of nails, but the tree house (no roof) took shape.

The only thing left was how to get into the house. Luckily we had an old wooden extension ladder. It was a bit long, but it was sturdy. The length meant a very shallow angle and a long trip to reach the tree house door, but it worked.

At first Kat was the only grandchild who would climb all the way. Her cautious younger sister Jolie would climb about halfway and stop. After cajoling by Kat and assurances from the grownups, she finally made it to the top. Young Luther was just a toddler so he only made it to the tree house with a

**See Marione Page 6**

# Dean Goll

**REAL ESTATE & AUCTION, LLC**



**SOLD** NEW - 160 Acres - SE¼ - 33-27-14, W.I.M. This tract has 159.15 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Grant silt loam and Pond Creek silt loam soils) and is watered by a windmill. All minerals are intact and sell with the farm. They are producing at the present time. **PRICE: \$495,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW—960 Acres, N½ SW¼ and the NW¼ - 17-27-15, W½ SW¼, W½ SE¼, E½ SW¼ - 8-27-15, S½ NE¼, E½ SW¼, SE¼ - 7-27-15, E½ SE¼, NW¼ SE¼, NE¼, SW¼ - 18-27-15 This tract consists of 960 acres of excellent grassland, all contiguous, lying 12 miles northwest of Alva, Okla. 94 acres was planted to w.w. spar grass. It has excellent hunting potential and is watered by five ponds. Fences are good, 4 and 5-wire fences with some new over the past years. **PRICE: \$1,350,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 160 Acres - NE¼ - 14-26-24, W.I.M., Harper County, Okla. This tract consists of 148 Acres of good cropland (primarily Vernon Clay Loam and Grandfield Fine Sandy Loam soils), and the balance being 4 acres in scattered grass fields. Located 8 miles north of May, Oklahoma, on Hwy 46. **NEW PRICE: \$192,000.00**

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

**SOLD** NEW - 1.54 Acres with 3 Morton Buildings  
1.) 60'x81' Machine Shed with cement floor  
2.) 48'x63' Shop Building with cement floor, office, and bathroom  
3.) 36'x54' Three-sided Horse Barn - Located just west of the water tower at 202 W. Monroe Ave. in Cherokee, Okla. **NEW PRICE: \$100,000.00**

**UNDER CONTRACT** NEW—154 Acres - NW¼ - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 121 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 33 Acres of grass, and waterways. There is excellent building potential. Just one mile east of Alva. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 160 Acres - NE¼ - 9-1-13, E.I.M., Texas County, and the S½ S½ SW¼, and the S½ N½ SW¼ all in

Section 25-2-13, E.I.M., Texas County. Both tracts have been in the CRP program but have expired. Both tracts are in the Goodwell, Oklahoma area. **PRICE: 153 Acres—\$165,000.00 and 72 Acres—\$90,000.00**

**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. Located east of Alva, Okla. SE¼ - 27-27-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$485,000.00**

**UNDER CONTRACT** NEW - 222 Acres - 206 Acres of good cropland (Meno Loamy Fine Sand and Nobscot sand soils), the balance being 16 Acres of grass in three locations. Has 3 miles north and 2¼ west of Ringwood, OK. W½ SE¼, and the SW¼ less 18 Acre tract in 29-23-10, W.I.M., Major County, Okla. **PRICE: \$440,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW—202 Acres - NE¼, less two tracts and the N½ SE¼ - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 113 Acres of good grassland and 89 Acres of good cropland. Improvements include a hay shed, shop, two overhead bins, corrals, and lean-to. Has City water and a water well. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW—146 Acres - NW¼ - 20-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract has 146 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Vernon Clay Loam and Hardiman Fine 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 (primarily Pond Creek Silt Loam, Dale Silt Loam, and Vernon Clay Loam soils) and the balance being 107 Acres of excellent grassland. Improvements include a 1,200 sq. ft. home, 50'x100' shed - like new, 32' x 60' shop w/ 16' lean-to, steel corrals, cements bunks with loafing shed, three overhead bins. N½ - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$1,050,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 316 Acres - Grant County, Okla - 15 miles west of Medford, Okla on St. Hwy 11. 205 Acres is good cropland,

and the balance being 111 Acres of grassland. NE¼ - 19-27-7, W.I.M., and NE¼ - 29-27-13, 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 Soils), rural water. NE¼ - 15-28-11, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW—474 Acres E½ and the NW¼ - 24-27-13, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 443 acres of good cropland (primarily Grant Silt Loam and Pond Creek Silt Loam soils) and 31 acres of grass and trees, watered by two windmills, and the northwest quarter has good hunting potential. **PRICE: \$1,200,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 320 Acres - W½ - 11-25-14, Woods County, Okla. This tract has an excellent stand of Ozark Bermudagrass. New fences and cross fences, good water, bunk lines, corrals, and shade on a paved road. **PRICE: \$750,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 150 Acres - SW¼ less 10 Acre tract in 13-27-13, Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$345,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 138.4 Acres SW¼ - 19-27-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$425,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 145 Acres NE¼ - 25-27-13, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$475,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 206 Acres of which 114 Acres is good cropland (primarily Dufford Silt Loam & Woodward Complex Soils), and the balance being 206 Acres of good grassland. E½ - 10-28-14, Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$525,000.00**

**SOLD** NEW - 160 Acres - NW¼ - 29-26-14, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 160 Acres of excellent grassland, of which 72 Acres was seeded to WW-Spar, and the balance being 72 Acres of native grass, trees, and Eagle Chief Creek. This farm has excellent hunting potential and is selling with 80 Acres of minerals. Located 6 miles south of Alva to Avarad Road. Then, 4 miles west to farm. **PRICE: \$310,000.00**

**RESIDENTIAL**

**SOLD**   
2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1,401 sq ft., Laundry Room, Dining Room, Spacious kitchen, Fireplace, CHA. Sits on 2 lots. 715 Park St, Alva. **\$52,000**

  
3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, 1,354 sq ft. plus finished basement! Detached garage with attached carport. Fenced yard. Recent updates include: new windows, roof, appliances, water heater, & tile bathtub surround. 522 S. Kansas Cherokee, OK **PRICE: \$80,000**

**SOLD**   
**NEW:** Remodeled home with nice apartment in the back! Main house - 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1,344 sq ft. Privacy Fence, Storage Shed. Apartment has 1 bedroom & 1 bathroom. It is 480 sq ft. and is accessible through the alley. 418 Sherman, Alva. **PRICE: \$146,000**

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

5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3,964 sq ft., oversized 2.5 car attached garage. Newly built 22x28 detached garage. Storm Cellar. Fenced backyard. New covered patio. 2 living areas. Large media room with wet bar. Fireplace. Laundry room. Tall knotty pine cathedral ceilings. Granite countertops. Large center kitchen island. Large master suite with his & hers closets. Beautifully remodeled in 2014. All new electrical, plumbing, drywall, duct work, fixtures, flooring, windows, doors, roof, brick, stone & cement siding. Best sunset view in town! 1633 Cherry St, Alva **NEW PRICE: \$475,000**

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,096 sq ft., oversized 2 car attached garage. Sits on 3 corner lots totaling 28,500 sq ft! Remodeled completed in 2020. Open Concept. Completely remodeled kitchen & bathrooms. Granite countertops. Laundry room. Master suite with his and hers closets. Storm Cellar. Pergola. Large Deck. Other updates include: new roof, windows, facia, flooring, paint, fixtures, hot water tank, water softener, AC unit and more! 821 1st St, Alva. **Now Available \$250,000**

**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**

  
**NEW:** New-built home & shop on 7 acres! Only 3.5 miles from town! 2100 sq ft steel framed home. Custom knotty older cabinets and woodwork. Granite counters. Large kitchen island, seats 8. Open concept. Fireplace. Large master suite with walk-in shower & large closet. 40x50 steel framed shop with toilet & plumbed for a shower & sink. Half underground pool. Large back patio. Horse lean-to's w/ lights & GF plug-ins. **BONUS:** Free monthly internet & equipment to house & shop! 30253 US Hwy 281, Alva. **PRICE: \$420,000**

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## From Page 2 Board

declaring two HP computers as surplus from the county clerk's office.

Jennifer Schafer reported only one bid was received for the sale of a 2008 F350 truck from District 1. Damien Starks bid \$500. The commissioners approved the bid.

Under new business, County Clerk Shelley Reed reported the county received a check for \$2,247.63 from the opioid settlement. She said at next week's meeting, there will be an item on the agenda to set up a new fund to track how that money is spent.

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

## From Page 4 Marione

lift from an adult.

It was Kat who found a wooden basket, leftover from Easter, and asked for some rope. With the rope tied to the basket handle, it was perfect for sending up snacks or supplies such as pencils and paper. The kids spent many happy hours in the tree house when they visited Alva. When they weren't around, the neighborhood squirrels enjoyed exploring the structure.

The tree house and the tree that held it are long gone, but the memories and the photos remain.

Among the photos from the same visit, I found some of my husband Lynn taking Jolie for a ride in his small plane. He loved to explain everything and give the kids a fun non-scary ride. Another photo shows me rubbing peanut butter into Jolie's long hair to remove chewing gum. I sent that photo to Jolie, and she said she still remembers the incident.

Nowadays, it seems like kids are more glued to their phones and tablets than interested in experiencing the outdoors. And photos exist on cellphones for sharing and then forgetting. Times have changed, but fun memories from childhood linger.

# From Model Ts to space ships

## VernaLee Lawson celebrates 97<sup>th</sup> birthday

### Attributes her smooth, beautiful skin to Princess Nyla cream



**VernaLee Lawson turned 97 in January and enjoyed a cake and punch Happy Birthday party at Kiowa's Senior Citizen Center.**

**By Yvonne Miller**

Take one look at the birthday girl VernaLee Lawson's beautiful, almost wrinkle-free skin, and you'd never guess she turned 97 this month on Jan. 11.

Kiowa's Senior Citizen Center was full of well-wishing family and friends, nearly 40 people, Saturday morning when VernaLee's three children hosted a birthday party for her. She and her husband, Vane, had three children: Randy, Tony and Sheri. "You never know how much time we have left with her," Sheri Lawson Herren said of the siblings' decision to have the party now rather than waiting till her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

When asked what VernaLee thinks is the secret to her longevity, she replied, "Eat good, healthy food and don't smoke. Not a lot of fried food. I have healthy ancestors." She drank two cups of coffee each day – one in the morning, one in the afternoon – "and lots of water." She added, "Once in a while I have a glass of wine before bed, it helps me sleep."

What about that smooth skin? VernaLee said, "I used Princess Nyla cream for years but they no longer make it. I use Oil of Olay now. I had oily skin. I washed my face morning and night."

As a girl, VernaLee (Campbell) attended school in Hardtner where she

graduated top of her class in 1944. Vane graduated from Kiowa High School in 1938 and when World War II started he joined the then Army/Air Force division as a flight engineer and crew chief on C-47s. They carried paratroopers and pulled gliders. Vane served five campaigns in World War II. He and VernaLee married in 1948. For years she served in the local VFW Auxiliary. She was also heavily involved in the women's activities at Kiowa's United Methodist Church. She did a lot of quilting there.

Looking back on her life and those early days, VernaLee said, "The war started my sophomore year of high school. It was a really bad time. Boys we knew were getting killed. Hitler was an evil man."

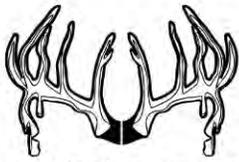
As a girl VernaLee remembers riding in a Model T Ford. "I grew up on a farm but never rode a horse except Uncle Orville's real gentle horse." She's watched technology progress to space ships with astronauts flying to the moon and now more extended space travel.

"From a Model T Ford to space ships," she said with a laugh. She didn't get into the computer age – no computer or cell phone for VernaLee. Sheri said the kids tried a cell phone for her but she would never answer it. They got her a life alert necklace instead and a distress button by the bathtub. VernaLee thanked her nephew Bob Lamkin and wife Donna who are neighbors and check on her several times per day. Her children alternate weekend visits. Mobile Meals deliver three times a week and she has folks from the senior center and others check on her frequently.

VernaLee and Vane varied employment including Ford dealership

"She worked her whole life," Sheri said of her mother. VernaLee worked seven years in the pharmacy at the Achenbach Memorial Hospital in Hardtner. She also worked at Parker's Grocery Store (on Main Street where NAPA is now.) The family moved to Kingman a year and then returned home where she worked for the Bank of Kiowa 15 years. She worked at the Tucker

**See Ships Page 8**



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# HUNTING COUNTRY REAL ESTATE

## PRIVATE SALES & AUCTION SERVICES

Acres	County/State	Description	Price	Status
120	Barber Co, KS	Seasonal Creek, Hunting, Grazing	\$240,000	NEW
11,391	McIntosh Co, OK	GILLESPIE RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$23,887,500	NEW
1035	Barber Co, KS	Agricultural, Hunting, Grassland	\$1,966,500	NEW
304	Woods Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Multiple Ponds	\$375,000	NEW
638	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Spring Fed Pond	\$1,116,500	NEW
313	Harper Co, KS	Native Pasture, Hunting, Ponds	\$719,900	NEW
475	Barber Co, KS	Hunting, Grassland, Agricultural	\$795,000	NEW
300	Seminole Co, OK	Fishing, Hunting, Grassland	\$750,000	NEW
114	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Grassland	\$245,000	NEW
160	Meade Co, OK	Grassland, Agricultural, Hunting	\$160,000	NEW
161	Grant Co, OK	Agricultural, Grassland, Hunting	\$261,050	
24.67	Woods Co, OK	Custom Home, Pond, Grassland, Hunting	\$775,000	
156	Woods Co, OK	Res/Comm Development near Alva	\$499,000	
105	Meade Co, KS	Hunting, Grassland, Wetlands	\$95,000	
475	Barber Co, KS	Hunting, Grazing, Cropland w/Pond	\$849,000	new price
1.9	Taney Co, MO	D'monaco Luxury Resort	\$36,000,000	new price
2.5	Taney Co, MO	170 Room Hotel Development Project	\$8,500,000	new price
255	Ripley Co, MO	40-acre Private Lake & Improvements	\$1,350,000	Pending
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
159	Stafford Co, KS	Cropland w/ Pond, Hunting with House	\$645,000	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
11,375	McIntosh Co, OK	FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$19,900,000	SOLD
320	Woods Co, OK	Grassland Sec. 19-25N-13W	\$550,000	SOLD
897	Kingfisher Co, OK	8 Farms LAND AUCTION	\$2,548,772	SOLD
360	Lawrence Co, AR	25/ac Private Lake w/house & Hunting	\$1,295,000	SOLD
660	Barber Co, KS	Hunting on Little Bear Creek	\$825,000	SOLD
525	Wayne Co, MO	135/ac Private Lake - Hardwood Timber	\$2,690,000	SOLD
363	Kingman Co, KS	Lies in Sections 5&8-30S-10W	\$1,200,000	SOLD
275	Kingman Co, KS	Turn Key Recreational Property w/Lodge	\$749,999	SOLD
470	Major Co, OK	Hunting on Cimarron River	\$790,000	SOLD
1335	Barber Co, KS	Excellent Gyp Hill Hunting Sun City	\$2,100,000	SOLD
6300	Barber Co, KS	Medicine River Hunting Ranch	\$11,000,000	SOLD

### BOOK YOUR LAND AUCTION NOW - EMBRACE THE TECHNOLOGY

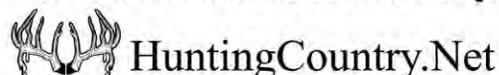
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From Page 6  
**Ships**

sewing manufacturing business on the north side of Main Street that made upholstery for trucks and other items like luggage, etc. She retired at age 62.

Vane was in the car business. In 1944 his father J.C. Lawson opened Lawson Motor Company, a Ford dealership on Main Street where The Kiowa Locker is today. His sons A.J, Forest "Frosty" and Vane assisted their father. In the 1950s Vane had a used car lot where the community garden is now located behind the Hometown Market. When the father retired his sons continued the business until 1967.

After that time Vane worked for Willard Holderby at Holderby Ford in Cherokee several years. Then the next 25 or 30 years he worked for Washburn Ford in Alva. He was known for driving his hot little "1964 and a half" red Mustang to and from work between Kiowa and Alva. Vane retired from Washburns at age 81. He sold his beloved red Mustang to his niece, Margaret Konecny and husband Bob, in 2003. Vane passed away January 16, 2015, at age 95.

Of her birthday party, VernaLee was "surprised at the large group who came. I had a really good birthday and am still enjoying myself this evening. Thanks to everyone!"

# Burlington School Board has brief special meeting

By Yvonne Miller

Burlington's School Board met for a special meeting Feb. 24 that lasted about 15 minutes.

The purpose of the meeting was to approve an addendum for Gayle McNett who is the school counselor. She recently earned her master's degree in counseling. Going up to this level equates to a little over \$1300 addendum, Superintendent Rousey said.

Jr/Sr High Principal Gerrett Spears updated the board on future tournament options. He said they plan to play next basketball season in the Hillsdale

Christian Tournament. This is a private school in Hillsdale. "We just wanted the board's blessing before we said yes," Spears said.

The only other item of business was approval of the following encumbrances, change orders and warrants: General Fund warrants for \$193,639.15; Building Fund warrants for \$1,017.47 and Child Nutrition Fund for \$9,235.78.

Three board members were present including: Robert Hill, Terry Graham and Lindsey Callison. April Kisling and T.J.Rockenbach were absent.

# Students evacuated for fire alarm at Cunningham Hall

By Marione Martin

During the dedication of the newly renovated Cunningham Hall Friday, Jan. 20, Northwestern Oklahoma State University student Shayna Miller said, "New buildings come with fun surprises. When we first moved over to Cunningham Hall, the fire alarms went off at least twice a week for at least two weeks. This means two things. One, our new fire safety system definitely works, and two, our students will definitely know what to do in case there should ever be an emergency."

Ten days later, the evacuation was real. At 12:18 a.m. the Alva Fire Department, Alva EMS and Alva

Police Department were dispatched to the residence hall for a commercial fire alarm. Smoke was observed coming from the lobby area. Crews found the gas-fed fireplace in the lobby had malfunctioned, causing a small fire in the fireplace.

Students were swiftly evacuated by NWOSU staff and fed while they waited about two hours before being allowed back inside. On their Facebook page, the Alva Fire Department gave credit to NWOSU staff for their quick response and for keeping the fire contained to the fireplace.

Before Friday's dedication, the facility was known as South Hall due to its location on the south side of the university campus in Alva. The building was constructed in 1966, and recent renovations began in the summer of 2022.

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# Woods County loses over half million in taxes due to ruling

By Marione Martin

A new ruling declaring waste water lines for oil and gas as exempt from ad valorem taxes has resulted in the loss of tax money to counties and especially to schools. On Thursday, Jan. 26, the Woods County Tax Roll Corrections Board met at the courthouse in Alva to handle a list of tax corrections. Many of them were for the change in status of waste water (often called saltwater) lines. The corrections related to those lines, approved for four years of tax rolls, resulted in over a half million dollars in lost taxes to Woods County. More than half of that was designated for schools.

Members of the board include John Smiley, chairman of the county commissioners; Renetta Benson, county assessor and Joe Shirley, chairman of the county excise board. County Clerk Shelley Reed was also present.

## 2017 Tax Roll

Attorneys Lauren McCall and Drew Harrold with Merit Advisors were present by telephone for the beginning of the meeting. They wanted to discuss the SandRidge E & P and SandRidge Midstream protests for 2017. Benson said the formal protests were withdrawn and then the company came back and filed paperwork which included everything like land, mobile homes and

computers. She said the information should have been broken down to show what was being protested.

Due to the withdrawal of the protests and the later paperwork including too much, Benson recommended the protest not be approved. Shirley made a motion, seconded by Smiley to deny the claim, and the motion carried by unanimous vote. The SandRidge E & P protest involves \$193,229 in taxes and will go to court.

The board also denied the SandRidge Midstream protest which involves \$119,888 in taxes. This will also go to court.

## 2018 Tax Roll

On 2018 taxes, SandRidge E & P will pay \$181,868 less in ad valorem taxes to Woods County due to the exemption of waste water pipelines. Broken down into school districts, taxes went from \$4,030 in the Waynoka district to zero. The reduction in the Freedom district is from \$55,091 down to zero. Another Freedom amount of \$6 also went to zero. In the Alva district, taxes go down from \$154,594 to \$33,734. A Major County school district that includes Woods County land goes from \$881 down to zero. These tax amounts are not what the school districts receive. The totals are divided among schools and other entities such as Woods County and the Woods County Health Department.

The board members voted to accept this tax roll correction because it was ordered by the court.

## 2019 Tax Roll

In another court order approved by the tax roll corrections board, SandRidge E & P will pay \$182,107 less in taxes to Woods County. For the area included in the Waynoka School District, taxes went from \$5,478 to zero. In Freedom district, taxes went from \$57,503 to zero and from \$6 to zero. In Alva school district, the taxes to be paid went from \$150,979 to \$32,752. For the Major County school district, taxes went from \$893 to zero. Again, these tax totals are for all those receiving ad valorem taxes, not just the schools.

## 2020 Tax Roll

The 2020 tax roll protest has not gone to court. Benson said SandRidge

didn't file with the courts after the formal protest was denied. SandRidge's attorney was asked to talk to the county's attorney, Luke Adams, but Adams said no one talked to him. This protest was not filed before the deadline so there has been no ruling by the county tax roll corrections board.

At the request of the county's attorney, the board moved to table the matter.

## 2021 Tax Roll

The loss of ad valorem taxes from SandRidge in 2021 totals \$185,918. The loss in the Waynoka School District is \$5,677. In the Freedom district the loss is \$58,364. The Major County district loss is \$979. In the Alva School District \$121,144 was reduced to \$246 for a loss of \$120,898.

Since these changes were approved by the courts, the tax roll corrections board approved the change in taxes.

## 2022 Tax Roll

Benson had several corrections to the 2022 Tax Roll. One account was reduced by \$691 in taxes due to a mobile home being moved off the property and into Woodward County. Woods County was not told of the change before taxes were assessed. This change was approved by the board.

Companies designated as Public Service companies go directly through the state instead of to the county. Taxes on Southern Star Central Gas were reduced by \$14,885 by the state. The board approved the change.

Paperwork sent to Redline Energy, LLC was signed for, but later the county received a notification that the company does not own the wells assessed. However, the Corporation Commission shows they still own the wells which were purchased in 2020. Shirley made a motion, seconded by Smiley and approved unanimously to deny the protest.

In final action, the board approved a protest from a taxpayer who was assessed \$747 on a mobile home which was sold to someone else.

Corrections for 2018, 2019 and 2021 involving saltwater disposal lines amounted to a loss in taxes of \$549,893 for Woods County.

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# Filing opens Monday for the municipal election

By Marione Martin

Filing opens Monday for municipal candidates in Oklahoma. The filing period is from 8 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6, to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at county election boards.

## Woods County

In Woods County, the City of Alva offices open for filing are: Mayor, currently held by Kelly Parker; city clerk, currently held by Melody Theademan; city marshal, currently held by Jim Scribner; and four city council positions for Office 2 in each ward. Those currently holding those positions are Dr. Garrett Lahr in Ward 1, Gail Swallow in Ward 2, Sadie Bier in Ward 3 and Randy Stelling in Ward 4. All of these are four year terms.

The City of Waynoka has the mayor and six councilmember seats up for election. Two of the council terms are for unexpired two year terms. Current office holders in positions open for four

year terms are Susan Bradford, mayor; Don Cummins, Ward 1 Seat 1; Keith Cameron, Ward 2 Seat 1; Jay Adair, Ward 3 Seat 1; and Tim Crissup, Ward 4 Seat 1. The two year unexpired terms are currently filled by Wes Hope, Ward 1 Seat 2; and Ashley Woodall, Ward 2 Seat 2.

The Town of Freedom has three positions open for filing. The Board of Trustee Seat 1 is for an unexpired term of two years while the Board of Trustee Seat 2 office is a full four year term. The town treasurer/clerk position is also open with an unexpired term of two years.

The Town of Dacoma has two positions open on the Board of Trustees. Both are for the full four years.

## Alfalfa County

In Alfalfa County, the City of Cherokee will be electing two commissioners for four year terms. These are for Ward 2 and Ward 4.

The Town of Burlington filings will

be open for two positions on the board of trustees with four year terms.

The Town of Byron has two offices open on the board of trustees and the town clerk office, all with four year terms.

The Town of Carmen has three positions open on the board of trustees with four years terms plus a town clerk/treasurer position for four years.

The Town of Goltry will have filing for three spots on the board of trustees and a town clerk/treasurer, all with four year terms.

The Town of Helena has three members of the board of trustees open for filing plus a town clerk/treasurer. All are four year terms.

The Town of Jet has three positions open on the board of trustees with four-year terms in addition to a trustee position for a two year unexpired term. They will also have filing open for the town clerk/treasurer for a four year term.

The nonpartisan general election will be held on Tuesday, April 4, for these municipal offices.

## Upcoming Elections

On Feb. 14 the Waynoka Public Schools will have a special election on the ballot for a bond issue. After the first year, the \$7,865,000 bond issue will not cost taxpayers any more than what they're already paying, according to school officials. That's because the school's current bonded indebtedness will be decreasing and eventually be paid off as taxes increase for the new bond.

Early voting in this election will be held Thursday and Friday, Feb. 9 and 10, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.

State Question 820 will appear on the March 7 special election ballot. The proposal is to legalize recreational use of marijuana for persons 21 or older. Watch for an analysis of this state question, provided by the Oklahoma Press Association, in upcoming editions of the Alva Review-Courier.

The April 4 election will be not only for municipal candidates but will also include candidates for school board.

## 15 students in Mexico treated for internet drug 'challenge'

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Fifteen grade school students in Mexico have been treated after apparently taking part in an internet "challenge" in which groups of students take tranquilizers to see who can stay awake the longest.

The incident occurred Monday in the north-central city of Guanajuato. It came just days after health authorities issued a national alert about the craze. It was the fourth school in Mexico to suffer such incidents in the last year.

Guanajuato Mayor Alejandro Navarro said the students were treated at the school, and urged parents to supervise their kids' use of social media.

"As a rule, girls and boys shouldn't

have social media accounts, it's bad to start with," Navarro wrote in his Facebook account.

There was no immediate information on the condition of the students, believed to be fifth and sixth graders, or where they got the tranquilizers.

The Health Department issued an alert on Jan. 25 about the dangers of clonazepam, a tranquilizer, and called on the public to report any store selling it without a prescription.

That alert came one week after eight students at a Mexico City middle school were treated after taking a "controlled medication." Some were hospitalized. Just days before, three students at another middle school near the northern city of Monterrey were treated for taking doses of clonazepam.

The department warned about the social media challenge, dubbed "the last one to fall asleep wins," calling it dangerous.



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**NEWSGRAM**  
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# Manor full, overall stats for 2022 increase from 2021

- January 2023 KDH meeting
- Manor Kitchen Project held-up by flooring

## By Yvonne Miller

Kiowa District Hospital Board of Directors President Pat Myers called the regular January meeting to order in the Kirkpatrick Conference Room with three other members present including Marcia Cantrell, Jeff Miller and Jim Parker. Chantae Simpson was absent but joined during executive session.

CEO/CFO Janell Goodno and COO and Manor Administrator Philip Anton were also at the table. Others attending included Business Office Manager Tara Girty, Hospital DON Robyn Whitaker, Quality Manager/Manor DON Brandy Campbell, RHC Manager Lacey Volker, Interim CFO Gene Kaberline, Accountant/Biller Courtney Larson, Friends of the KDH and Manor Foundation President Judy Schrock.

The manor kitchen remodel project that's funded by financial gifts was to be finished in January. It's on hold because of the flooring. Maintenance Director Brad Applegarth confirmed the flooring is manufactured. However, it's not shipped, which is "frustrating." He's hopeful they'll receive it by mid-February – it should then be finished in about four weeks. Applegarth said they are also working on a public restroom and remodeling the break area. The fire marshal is on board with the project.

Thanks to a financial gift from the Foundation, the following Nursing Capital Equipment can be purchased: a warming cabinet for blankets, cautery machine, polls and hooks, and a drying cabinet for scopes.

## Hospital and Manor Administrative Reports

Reporting for the hospital, Goodno said that Morgan Stuke, a nurse practitioner, will begin orientation in February. Stuke will work the first month with Dr. Wilhelm, then begin a Thursday afternoon, Friday and weekend schedule. Sierra Cargill, marketing coordinator, works three

days per week. The KHA Critical Issues summit is March 2 and 3.

Barber County United is sponsoring a Mental Health First Aid day in Hazelton. Subjects to be discussed are; suicide, drug dependency, mental illness, etc. Goodno mentioned what a excellent job the South Barber School System is doing in his area.

Staff openings include part-time MLT or MT, CNAs and CMAs, Manor night shift RN.

## Hands Free Door/Sink Project Update

Regarding the manor, Anton they are full with 26 residents. They are currently a 5-Star Facility. The manor still needs shift CNAs and Kitchen help, looking hard for night shift RN. He's looking at better methods of transporting food to hospital.

Many routine monthly reports for December were board approved including: Medical Staff minutes; Quality Hospital minutes; Quality Manor minutes; Quality Manor and Quality Hospital minutes as presented. Campbell said they are always looking to make improvements. Anton gave the IT report and said that stats are nominal. They are working on software patches said they are getting printers on their own network.

The following medical staff appointments were approved: Jeffrey Behar, MD (vRad); Gregg Sydow, MD (vRad); Eddie Fiore, MD (vRad); Mohamad Elhawari, MD (vRad); Paul Guisler, MD (vRad); Morgan Stuke, APRN.

## Kiowa Hospital and Manor Statistics and Financial Reports for December

Larson presented the December statistics for the hospital and manor. Going through the statistics numbers for the hospital, she said many of the numbers are higher than last year. For example, clinic visits were 5,743, which is higher than last year and the four years prior. Same with total outpatient visits which totaled 8,578 – higher than last year by near 150 visits and significantly higher (by at least 2000 visits) than the previous four years.

For December, total hospital admissions were 25. Of those 76 total days of care, 36 were acute and 40

swingbed.

Larson pulled figures from the hospital's operating statement. With total gross patient revenue and contractual adjustments totaled \$582,868. With the addition of \$61,153 340B discount drug revenue, the hospital's total operating revenue was \$644,022.

Total operating expenses were \$875,001. This made a net loss of operations of \$230,980.

With the addition of \$30,487 tax money and other misc., money totaling \$46,649; and \$180,106 HHS Stimulus-Covid 19 money; the hospital's loss was curbed to \$4,225.

Year-to-date, Larson said the hospital shows a loss of \$923,940.

The manor's operating statement showed total operating revenue of \$149,849 and total operating expenses of \$272,162. This created a net loss from operations of \$122,313. The addition of \$5000 tax revenue and miscellaneous income; and the addition of \$10,961 HHS Stimulus-Covid 19 money reduced the manor's December loss to \$103,812. The manor's year-to-date loss was \$468,210.

Goodno explained that for 2022 KDH still had Covid monies coming through December. There is a lot of Covid and CARES money involved. She said they'll know more definite figures when they get the next cost report, which will be soon. Kaberline said he anticipates substantial increases in KDH's Medicare reimbursement. He said the Critical Access Hospital (CAH) status is in place to keep health care open in rural areas.

Goodno gave an update on the 2022 Audit and Cost Report. The audit by Corvus was to begin this week. They've started on the Medicaid Cost Report. The Manor Cost Report is due Feb. 28. The Hospital Medicare Cost Report is due May 31.

Larson presented the finances from the hospital and manor's comparative balance sheets. Cash-on-hand at the end of December was \$1,805,548. The combined loss for 2022 was \$1,392,150.

Goodno explained the losses are

See Manor Page 22



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As we all mourn the loss of such an important member of our little corner of the world, I especially appreciate the continued love, support, and grace that has been shown to myself, the practice, and staff. Our updated schedule, including office and physician hours as follows:

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Monday.....8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-5:30pm  
Tuesday.....7:30am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-5:30pm  
Wednesday.....7:30am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-5:30pm  
Thursday.....8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-5:30pm

**OPTOMETRIST HOURS:**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
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Additionally, physician hours may shift week to week as we work to find our new normal, but the Alva Vision Clinic, will continue to be open and available for all of your Vision Source needs. So whether your needs involve new contact lenses or frame adjustment/repair, a post-op checkup or an annual exam, or just want to checkout the latest Ray-Ban or Oakley sunglasses, we are here for you!



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# Cherokee students vying for state FCCLA office



**Davin Budy**

Davin Budy and Hope Jordan of Cherokee have made it to the final round of voting for the 2023-2024 state officer team of the Oklahoma CareerTech Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) student organization. Budy and Jordan are two of 17 contenders vying for a position on the 11-person team.

Hope Jordan, a junior at Cherokee High School, is the daughter of Ken and Anita Jordan. She is on the ballot as an at-large candidate. Davin Budy, a



**Hope Jordan**

sophomore at Cherokee High School, is the son of Chad and Danielle Budy. He is on the ballot to represent Oklahoma as a national officer candidate. Their local FCCLA Adviser is Heather Gottsch.

The interview process began Jan. 26 to determine the final slate for state FCCLA officer elections to be held April 6 at the state convention in Oklahoma City.

“Students were interviewed, tested over FCCLA facts, and presented a one-minute speech within their

region,” said Brittani Phillips, state FCCLA advisor. “Seventeen students were chosen from the second round of interviews and will have their names on the final ballot. We have a wonderful ballot and look forward to these future leaders taking office and helping move Oklahoma FCCLA forward.”

State officer team members are responsible for duties such as planning and conducting workshops, installing district officers, and leading chapter officer training. The officer team also plans and presides over state convention, works with members to increase membership, and helps to raise awareness of FCCLA in the state.

“Throughout the year, FCCLA members tackle issues such as teen violence prevention, traffic safety, family issues, career exploration and much more,” Phillips said. “FCCLA programs enrich student learning, improve self-esteem, and serve students with a range of ability levels, economic situations, and cultural influences.”

For more information about FCCLA, e-mail Brittani Phillips at [brittani.phillips@careertech.ok.gov](mailto:brittani.phillips@careertech.ok.gov) or call 405-743-5467. For more information about CareerTech student organizations, visit [www.okcareertech.org/main/students.htm](http://www.okcareertech.org/main/students.htm).

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WED., Feb. 8	THURS., Feb. 9	FRI., Feb. 10	MON., Feb. 13	TUES., Feb. 14
Pizza & Chicken Wings Tossed Salad w/Dressing Peaches in Jell-O Chocolate Chip Cookie	Chili/Cheese Stuffed Baked Potato Corn Chowder Crackers Apple Cobbler	<b>CLOSED</b>	Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Tossed Salad w/Dressing Vegetable Medley Garlic Bread Cinnamon Apple Sauce	Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes w/Cream Gravy Green Beans Biscuit w/Margarine Chocolate Cake

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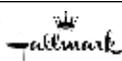
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# Alfalfa county commissioners hear about SandRidge tax protest

By Kathleen Lourde

Alfalfa County commissioners Nate Ross, Mike Roach and Garret Johnson gathered for their regular meeting Monday, Jan. 30.

After initial routine business, the group listened to a lengthy presentation by Alfalfa County Assessor Jennifer Roach.

Roach handed out thick booklets to the commissioners and launched into a discussion of the court decision handed down Oct. 28 involving SandRidge's tax protest for 2021. That decision, she said, was based on the BCE Mach vs. Roach decision, because both involved saltwater disposal wells.

"The main problem with the SandRidge 2021 taxes is that they didn't file the 990 forms, and that's created an issue for the schools," said Roach.

Without the 990 form on file, the county treasurer's office is not authorized to keep the tax collections in escrow during a protest. Instead, they had to apportion the money out to the schools.

Now that the court has found in their favor, SandRidge wants its money back. Cherokee Schools will be hit the hardest of any school in the county, Roach said.

"We've been advised by our attorney that regardless of (Sandridge) not filing their paperwork – and this is also the same year they did not file the protest through the proper channels – regardless

of that (...) their not filing the paperwork was never going to be a legal argument in the courts unfortunately," she said.

Now Roach, school superintendents, attorneys, county commissioners, and a lot of other people are trying to figure out what to do – how to get SandRidge their money without harming the schools.

A number of options have been considered (see the video at [www.alvareviewcourier.com](http://www.alvareviewcourier.com) for the complete discussion), but right now it's looking like their best hope will be coming up with a payment plan that the schools can handle, and to possibly try to knock off interest payments by explaining to SandRidge how their failure to fill out the 990s was the cause of all this, after all.

"I have been racking my brain and losing sleep to figure out a way that we can serve our communities and serve our schools by figuring out a way to put this off by at least one year so they can budget for it," said Roach.

"I've been trying to think of ways we can help our schools, that we can be a partner in this burden with them, whether it is simply to work out a plan in which they can repay it next year, rather than this year – because they had no notice this year. It hit in October. They just had no notice," Roach said.

Also, she noted that the county needs a good relationship with SandRidge; they are still a taxpayer, after all. They paid \$76,000 in taxes last year, Roach said.

## Routine Business

The commissioners approved and signed blanket purchase orders, M&O warrants for payment, payroll warrants, road crossing permits, and the Unifirst Customer Service Agreement.

They opened bids for new four-wheel-drive pickups for districts 1 and 3, but unfortunately only one was notarized. That one, from Croft Chevrolet, offered a price of \$40,530 on a four-cylinder pickup. It was accepted. The other bids were tabled until next month.

To pay salary raises in the Assessor's Office, the commissioners approved transferring \$1,500 from Assessor Capital Outlay and \$1,000 from Assessor M&O to put \$2,500 into Assessor

Personal Services.

The group signed off on several private property access easements:

□ Private Property Access Easement for District 2 for SE ¼ of 18-25-11 to fix drainage structure for proper drainage extending on landowner's property.

□ Private Property Access Easement for District 3 for NE ¼ of 2-24-10 for disposing wooden bridge material in burn pit on farmer's land.

□ Private Property Access Easement for District 3 for E ½ NE ¼ of 17-24-11 to fix right-of-way before fence is rebuilt.

□ Private Property Access Easement for District 3 for SW ¼ of 27-24-11 to remove trees from right of way and place on farmer's land

A request to change receiving officer was approved; Ryan Kirkpatrick was removed and Ashley Ryel was added for the Alfalfa County Assessor's Office.

Hawes Eye Wash Shower in District 3 was declared surplus, and the commissioners approved a resolution to dispose of it.

With no unforeseen business, the meeting adjourned.

*Correction: In last week's Newsgram, the Chief for Nescatunga was given the wrong name; his name is Travis Krob.*

## From Page 18 Manor

somewhat distorted. One major factor is KDH received all the CARES money in 2021 but had to spend it in 2022. She said Kaberline and Larson have cleaned up a lot of entries and added accruals. The manor's December loss was due to salaries and supplies purchased for the upcoming kitchen remodel and COVID expenses.

Girty reported that for December the Accounts Receivable were \$1,187,208. The average days in AR were 40 with total payments made of \$528,630.

Total assets for the hospital and manor are \$12,254,532. The board approved all the financial and statistical reports as presented.

## Action Ad deadlines:

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# Obituaries

## FRANK EDWARD BELL



Frank Edward Bell departed this life on January 21, 2023, following a long battle with an addiction to alcohol. Frank was born July 22, 1951, to Alva Less Bell and Francis (Johnson) Bell in Cherokee, Oklahoma.

He was the oldest of nine siblings.

In 1974 he moved to Billings, Missouri. Frank was united in marriage to Cynthia Ann Keen on December 6, 1975. They were married for 31 years before her passing. Frank was a welder by trade and retired from Reyco Industries. He enjoyed coin collecting, guns, metal detecting and auctions. He also enjoyed spending time with his family and friends meeting them anywhere and everywhere. Frank loved to talk; he would talk your ear off if he could. He was well known in Billings, Missouri.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Paul, sister Emily, wife Cynthia and son Wesley Hicks.

Frank is survived by three brothers, Clyde Bell, David Bell and Mike Bell, all of Cherokee; three sisters, Mary (Bell) Arndt of Idaho, Martha (Bell) Dixon of Georgia, Ruth (Bell) Beall of Cherokee; his previous wife Carol; four sons: Larry (Kathy) Hicks; Chris (Tanya) Bell, all of Springfield; David Bell, Republic; Carl Bell, Billings; and one daughter Ruby (James) Branson; six grandchildren: Iliza Branson, Danielle (Murry) Moss, Dalton (Hannah) Hicks, Katelyn Bell, Jaxon Bell, Nichole Bell; seven great-grandchildren: Shaye, Bryson, Brodie, Aubrey, Owen, Harrison, and Oliver; and many other friends.

A memorial service will be held on February 4, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Billings Assembly of God located in Billings, Missouri.

The family requests in lieu of flowers you may donate to Higher Ground Recovery Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse at 417-869-0700 or Recovery Chapel at 417-887-7728 in Frank Bell's name.

## JOHN CURTIS MEANS



In the spring of 1982, on April 5, John Curtis Means was born in Oklahoma City and was delivered into the eager arms of his parents, Gary and Sheila Means. John passed from this life on Sunday, January 22, 2023, unexpectedly, after a brief illness.

John thrived growing up on his parent's farm near Cherokee, Oklahoma. At the ripe age of 11 months, he welcomed his sweet baby sister, Erin, into their loving family. John loved riding the four-wheelers doing farm chores with his dad and was a quick learner. He even learned which keys went to various vehicles and was not afraid to dash out the back door to start them, although, at age four, he couldn't see over the steering wheel.

John attended Cherokee schools from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, graduating with the Class of 2000. With his keen sense of humor, John earned the title of "Class Clown" and loved making his friends laugh. As a student, John often scored near the top on standardized tests, especially in math. His mother emphasized the importance of books and reading to her children, which helped them both become successful students. John loved sports, memorizing baseball stats and facts, then quoting them to his parents, especially at night when he was supposed to be going to sleep. John's love of sports expanded during his college years and beyond. He was a huge fan of OSU sports and Thunder basketball.

He attended Oklahoma State University, later receiving his B.S. from the University of Central Oklahoma in Applied Technology/Audio Production in 2015. In junior high and high school, John followed in his dad's footsteps in becoming immersed in making music. His musical experience began with a set of drums and eventually included guitars, vocals and songwriting as an adult. Some of his best friends and best times involved making music, and he was in several bands over the years.

In 2011, John married RaeAnna

DeBoard, and on November 8, 2014, he became a father to his precious daughter, Sophia Harper. John was a wonderful, loving and enthusiastic dad. He and Sophie were inseparable. Their home was decorated with her creative artwork. Besides being a Super Dad, John was the fun and loving uncle to Andrew – the kind of uncle that every kid dreams of having. They shared many concerts, movies, laughs, Lego projects, pranks, and adventures on the farm. John and Andrew were good to – and for – each other, the best of family buddies.

John had many opportunities to love and care for his parents in recent years as his dad's health failed. He was truly a good and faithful son, gently and lovingly filling needs as they arose. John's caring nature has never been more evident than in recent years, as his dad's health failed, and his mother needed his support.

John's many friends have described him as having a great heart and welcoming energy – a funny, giving, kind and genuinely great, sweet, and hilarious guy. A co-worker called him "an encourager" when situations become difficult. John was absolutely loyal as a friend and family member and rose to the top as a kind, gentle caregiver to his loving parents.

As an infant, John was baptized into the St. Cornelius Catholic Church in Cherokee, where he attended Mass regularly. After moving to Moore, Oklahoma, he joined his family at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. At the time of his death, John was employed by Embassy Suites in Norman, as an Event Technology Supervisor.

John is survived by his daughter, Sophia Harper Means, mother, Sheila Means, sister, Erin DeWalt, nephew, Andrew Means, nieces, Olivia and Amelia DeWalt, brother-in-law, Tom DeWalt, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. He is preceded in death by his father, Gary Means, and his grandparents.

If you would like to donate to a memorial fund for Sophia Means, you may send a check to Sheila Means, with "Sophia Means" in the memo line, P.O. Box 6364, Moore, OK 73160.

## OSHA fines Kansas City company after worker's death

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A federal agency has recommended nearly \$200,000 in fines after an apprentice technician died from electrocution at a construction site in Kansas City last year — just a year after another technician working for the company was electrocuted at a construction site in Kansas.

The technician working for U.S. Engineering Services died on Aug. 24, 2022, when he came in contact with energized parts while clearing a chiller unit at University Academy in Kansas City, Missouri, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said Tuesday.

An OSHA investigation found the company did not follow required procedures that could have prevented the death. The agency cited similar violations when another company HVAC technician was electrocuted while working on a rooftop air conditioning unit in Wichita, Kansas, in July 2021.

OSHA cited U.S. Engineering Services, a subsidiary of U.S. Engineering, for three serious and two repeat violations and proposed \$197,642 in penalties. The agency found similar violations after the worker died in Wichita. U.S. Engineering Services paid the penalties in that case.

The company has 15 business days to respond to OSHA'S recommendations.

U.S. Engineering said in a statement that it has reviewed the citations.

"Safety is a core value for our organization, and we are committed to the health and safety of all of our team members," the statement said. "We look forward to continuing our work with OSHA on this matter. However, because these citations remain open to appeal, we have no additional comment at this time.

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## From Page 24 Obits

### DONITA KAY RAGAN

Donita was the first child of late parents Don and Eva Ragan of Kiowa,

Kansas, and was preceded in death her brother, Barry Ragan of St. John, Kansas. She is survived by brothers Jim Ragan of Salina, Kansas; Craig Ragan of Hardtner, Kansas; Phil Ragan of Winfield, Kansas; and sons Geoffrey Fletcher of Haysville, Kansas, and Gary Fletcher Jr. of Kiowa, Kansas.

As a student at Kiowa High School, she performed as a percussionist in the band and on the violin for the quality orchestra — both under the direction of Gary Fletcher, Sr., whom she named and subsequently bore their children, Geoffrey and Gary Jr.

Donita and Gary Sr. ended up settling in Newton, Kansas. Eventually, Gary became coordinator of music for Newton Public Schools. Gary and Donita provided musical instruction to any child interested in instrumental music regardless of ability to pay as both understood that was the very best way to build a quality music program. Donita once taught in excess of 80 students per whack to include string players, pianists, percussionists...YIKES.

After 19 eventful years of marriage she and Gary divorced, both moving on successfully with their lives.

She worked for several years at Wichita State University. For three years she played viola in the Wichita Symphony. Subsequently, a change of venue was in order and she accepted a job as transcriber for Social Security

Disability Court cases in Los Angeles, California. After several years in that position she decided to become an advocate to counsel and represent disability case applicants before the same justices/courts she transcribed for. Donita continued musically and among her accomplishments played in a theatrical pit orchestra for Ray Price and was offered a position as violist for the world renowned Mantovani Orchestra. After three seasons, it became clear she'd be requested to travel throughout the world with very few breaks and she became homesick.

After 17 years residing in Fullerton, California, the passing of her mother, Eva Ragan, and additional passing of her sister-in-law, Sharon Ragan, Donita returned to live out the rest of her days in her childhood town of Kiowa, Kansas.

She continued involvement musically and more recently enjoyed Bridge Club (eight members strong). Donita continued instruction of private music lessons and accompanied South Barber music students/groups at ... well ... too many music festivals to reflect upon. Also, she started up RED, WHITE and BLUEGRASS, a group of young bluegrass fiddlers that played numerous functions in Kiowa and throughout Kansas.

Finally, most of you have known Donita for many years playing piano at Kiowa Community Congregational Church.

Services for Donita will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at the Kiowa Community Congregational Church in Kiowa, Kansas.

Memorials can be sent to Kiowa Community Congregational Church.

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# Prosecutors file charges in set shooting by Alec Baldwin

By Morgan Lee

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)— Actor Alec Baldwin and a weapons specialist have been formally charged with involuntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer on a New Mexico movie set, according to court documents filed by prosecutors Tuesday.

Santa Fe District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies filed the charging documents naming Baldwin and Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, who supervised weapons on the set of the Western “Rust.”

The filing comes nearly two weeks after she first announced that Baldwin and Gutierrez-Reed would be prosecuted for what authorities have described as a pattern of criminal disregard for safety. In recent weeks, Carmack-Altwies has outlined two sets of involuntary manslaughter charges in connection with the shooting.

Baldwin and Gutierrez-Reed maintain their innocence and have vowed to fight the charges.

Baldwin’s attorney Luke Nikas declined comment Tuesday and referred to his previous statement on the case, in which he called the charges a “terrible miscarriage of justice” that he and his client would fight and win.

“Mr. Baldwin had no reason to believe there was a live bullet in the gun – or anywhere on the movie set,” the statement said. “He relied on the professionals with whom he worked.”

Gutierrez-Reed’s attorney said they would release a statement later.

Halyna Hutchins died shortly after being wounded during rehearsals at a ranch on the outskirts of Santa Fe on Oct. 21, 2021. Baldwin was pointing a pistol at Hutchins when the gun went off, killing her and wounding the director, Joel Souza.

Prosecutors have said that Baldwin’s involvement as a producer and as the person who fired the gun weighed in the decision to file charges.

The manslaughter charge against Baldwin includes alternative standards and sanctions. One would apply a charge of manslaughter for reckless disregard of safety “without due caution and circumspection.”

Hutchins’ death already has led to new safety precautions in the film industry.

Carmack-Altwies told The Associated Press in a Jan. 19 interview that the set was “really being run pretty fast and loose” and that Baldwin should have known there had been previous misfires on the set and that multiple people had brought up safety concerns.

She added that Baldwin was the one who pointed the gun and pulled the trigger.

Baldwin and Gutierrez-Reed will be issued a summons to appear in court. Prosecutors will forgo a grand jury and rely on a judge to determine if there is sufficient evidence to move toward trial. It could take up to 60 days for decision.

Involuntary manslaughter can involve a killing that happens while a defendant is doing something lawful

but dangerous and is acting negligently or without caution. Special prosecutor Andrea Reeb has cited a pattern of “criminal disregard for safety” on the set of “Rust.”

Prosecutors also said they will release the terms of a signed plea agreement with assistant director David Halls, who oversaw safety on the set. Participants in the un-filmed rehearsal have given conflicting accounts of who handed the gun to Baldwin.

Halls has agreed to plead guilty in the negligent use of a deadly weapon, they said.

Heather Brewer, a spokeswoman for the district attorney’s office, said in a statement Monday that prosecutors are “fully focused on securing justice for Halyna Hutchins” and “the evidence and the facts speak for themselves.”

Baldwin, also a co-producer on “Rust,” has described the killing as a tragic accident. The 64-year-old actor said he was told the gun was safe and has sought to clear his name by suing people involved in handling and supplying the loaded .45-caliber revolver.

In his lawsuit, Baldwin said that while working on camera angles with Hutchins, he pointed the gun in her direction and pulled back and released the hammer of the weapon, which discharged.

Defense attorney Jason Bowles, who represents Gutierrez-Reed, said the charges are the result of a “flawed investigation” and an “inaccurate understanding of the full facts.”

Defendants can participate remotely in many initial court proceedings or seek to have their first appearance waived.

The decision to charge Baldwin marks a stunning turn of events for an A-list actor whose 40-year career included the early blockbuster “The Hunt for Red October” and a starring role in the sitcom “30 Rock,” as well as iconic appearances in Martin Scorsese’s “The Departed” and a film adaptation of David Mamet’s “Glengarry Glen Ross.” In recent years, Baldwin was known for his impression of former President Donald Trump on “Saturday Night Live.”

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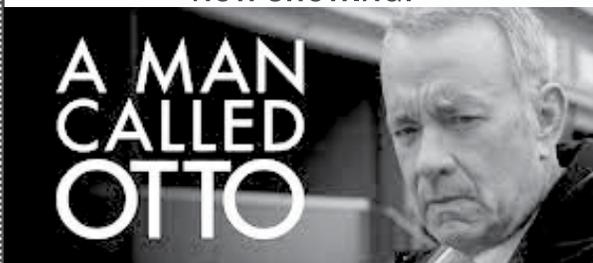
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# Winter weather cancels flights, leads to death in Texas

By Paul J. Weber and Jeff Martin

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Winter weather brought ice to a wide swath of the United States on Tuesday, causing the cancellation of more than 1,700 flights nationwide, bringing traffic to a standstill on an interstate through Arkansas and knocking out power to thousands of Texans.

As the ice storm advanced eastward on Tuesday, watches and warnings stretched from the western heel of Texas all the way to West Virginia. Several rounds of mixed precipitation — including freezing rain and sleet — were in store for many areas through Wednesday, meaning some regions could be hit multiple times, the federal Weather Prediction Center warned.

Numerous auto collisions were reported in Austin, Texas, with at least one fatality according to the Austin Fire Department. In Travis County, Texas, which includes Austin, police and sheriff's deputies have been responding to new crashes about every three minutes since 8 a.m., according to the Austin-Travis County Traffic Report Page.

More than 900 flights to or from major U.S. airport hub Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and more than 250 to or from Dallas Love Field were canceled or delayed Tuesday, according to the tracking service FlightAware. At Dallas-Fort Worth, more than 50% of Tuesday's scheduled flights had been canceled by Tuesday afternoon.

Dallas-based Southwest Airlines canceled more than 560 flights Tuesday and delayed more than 350 more, FlightAware reported.

About 7,000 power outages in Texas were reported as of late Tuesday morning, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said following a briefing in Austin on the worsening conditions. He emphasized the outages were due to factors such as ice on power lines or downed trees, and not the performance of the Texas power grid that buckled for days during a deadly winter storm in 2021.

Fleets of emergency vehicles were fanned out among 1,600 roads impacted by the freeze.

One Texas state trooper was hospitalized with serious injuries after being struck by a driver who lost control of their vehicle, said Steve McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"The roadways are very hazardous right now. We cannot overemphasize that," Abbott said.

In Arkansas, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders declared a state of emergency Tuesday because of the ice storm. In her declaration, Sanders cited the "likelihood of numerous downed power lines" and said road conditions have created a backlog of deliveries by commercial drivers.

One of the main thoroughfares through Arkansas — Interstate 40 — was ice-coated and "extremely hazardous" in the Forrest City area on Tuesday, according to the city's fire department. Pictures posted on social media showed the crumpled cab of a semi-trailer.

The department responded to two bad wrecks and about 15 other crashes Tuesday morning, Division Chief Jeremy Sharp said by telephone. In many of the

crashes, the drivers pick up speed on the highway but run into trouble when they reach a bridge, he said.

"They hit the ice and they start wrecking," he said.

"When I-40 shuts down like that, that can be hours of waiting," said John Gadberry, who lives in Colt, Arkansas, not far from the highway. "I-40 is usually one of the first things that freezes over due to its slight elevation."

By late Tuesday morning, I-40 was cleared and traffic had resumed, the Arkansas Department of Transportation announced. The interstate connects Little Rock, Arkansas, to Memphis, Tennessee.

The storm began Monday as part of an expected "several rounds" of wintry precipitation through Wednesday across Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Marc Chenard.

"Generally light to moderate freezing rain resulting in some pretty significant ice amounts," Chenard said.

"We're expecting ice accumulations potentially a quarter inch or higher as far south as Austin, Texas, up to Dallas over to Little Rock, Arkansas, towards Memphis, Tennessee, and even getting close to Nashville, Tennessee," according to Chenard.

The flight disruptions follow Southwest's meltdown in December that began with a winter storm but continued after most other airlines had recovered. Southwest canceled about 16,700 flights over the last 10 days of the year, and the U.S. Transportation Department is investigating.

The weather service has issued a winter storm warning for a large swath of Texas and parts of southeastern Oklahoma and an ice storm warning across the midsection of Arkansas into western Tennessee.

A winter weather advisory is in place in much of the remainder of Arkansas and Tennessee and into much of Kentucky, West Virginia and southern parts of Indiana and Ohio.

Schools and colleges in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas planned to close or go to virtual learning Tuesday.

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# Cheaters beware: ChatGPT maker releases AI detection tool

By Matt O'Brien and Jocelyn Gecker

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The maker of ChatGPT is trying to curb its reputation as a freewheeling cheating machine with a new tool that can help teachers detect if a student or artificial intelligence wrote that homework.

The new AI Text Classifier launched Tuesday by OpenAI follows a week-long discussion at schools and colleges over fears that ChatGPT's ability to write just about anything on command could fuel academic dishonesty and hinder learning.

OpenAI cautions that its new tool — like others already available — is not foolproof. The method for detecting AI-written text “is imperfect and it will be wrong sometimes,” said Jan Leike, head of OpenAI's alignment team tasked to make its systems safer.

“Because of that, it shouldn't be solely relied upon when making decisions,” Leike said.

Teenagers and college students were among the millions of people who began experimenting with ChatGPT after it launched Nov. 30 as a free application on OpenAI's website. And while many found ways to use it creatively and harmlessly, the ease with which it could answer take-home test questions and assist with other assignments sparked a panic among some educators.

By the time schools opened for the new year, New York City, Los Angeles and other big public school districts began to block its use in classrooms and on school devices.

The Seattle Public Schools district initially blocked ChatGPT on all school devices in December but then opened access to educators who want to use it as a teaching tool, said Tim Robinson, the district spokesman.

“We can't afford to ignore it,” Robinson said.

The district is also discussing possibly expanding the use of ChatGPT into classrooms to let teachers use it to train students to be better critical thinkers and to let students use the application as a “personal tutor” or to help generate new ideas when working

on an assignment, Robinson said.

School districts around the country say they are seeing the conversation around ChatGPT evolve quickly.

“The initial reaction was ‘OMG, how are we going to stem the tide of all the cheating that will happen with ChatGPT,’” said Devin Page, a technology specialist with the Calvert County Public School District in Maryland. Now there is a growing realization that “this is the future” and blocking it is not the solution, he said.

“I think we would be naïve if we were not aware of the dangers this tool poses, but we also would fail to serve our students if we ban them and us from using it for all its potential power,” said Page, who thinks districts like his own will eventually unblock ChatGPT, especially once the company's detection service is in place.

OpenAI emphasized the limitations of its detection tool in a blog post Tuesday, but said that in addition to deterring plagiarism, it could help to detect automated disinformation campaigns and other misuse of AI to mimic humans.

The longer a passage of text, the better the tool is at detecting if an AI or human wrote something. Type in any text — a college admissions essay, or a literary analysis of Ralph Ellison's “Invisible Man” — and the tool will label it as either “very unlikely, unlikely, unclear if it is, possibly, or likely” AI-generated.

But much like ChatGPT itself, which was trained on a huge trove of digitized books, newspapers and online writings but often confidently spits out falsehoods or nonsense, it's not easy to interpret how it came up with a result.

“We don't fundamentally know what kind of pattern it pays attention to, or how it works internally,” Leike said. “There's really not much we could say at this point about how the classifier actually works.”

Higher education institutions around the world also have begun debating responsible use of AI technology. Sciences Po, one of

France's most prestigious universities, prohibited its use last week and warned that anyone found surreptitiously using ChatGPT and other AI tools to produce written or oral work could be banned from Sciences Po and other institutions.

In response to the backlash, OpenAI said it has been working for several weeks to craft new guidelines to help educators.

“Like many other technologies, it may be that one district decides that it's inappropriate for use in their classrooms,” said OpenAI policy researcher Lama Ahmad. “We don't really push them one way or another. We just want to give them the information that they need to be able to make the right decisions for them.”

It's an unusually public role for the research-oriented San Francisco startup, now backed by billions of dollars in investment from its partner Microsoft and facing growing interest from the public and governments.

France's digital economy minister Jean-Noël Barrot recently met in California with OpenAI executives, including CEO Sam Altman, and a week later told an audience at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland that he was optimistic about the technology. But the government minister — a former professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the French business school HEC in Paris — said there are also difficult ethical questions that will need to be addressed.

“So if you're in the law faculty, there is room for concern because obviously ChatGPT, among other tools, will be able to deliver exams that are relatively impressive,” he said. “If you are in the economics faculty, then you're fine because ChatGPT will have a hard time finding or delivering something that is expected when you are in a graduate-level economics faculty.”

He said it will be increasingly important for users to understand the basics of how these systems work so they know what biases might exist.

# 'School choice' is culture-war focus for Kansas lawmakers

By John Hanna

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Top Republican legislators in Kansas are focusing on helping conservative parents remove their children from public schools over what's taught about gender and sexuality rather than pursuing a version of what critics call Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law.

A proposal to allow parents to use state tax dollars to pay for private or home schooling was available online Tuesday, a day after a committee on K-12 spending introduced the measure in the House.

The introduction comes as funding and lesson plans for public schools have become hot button issues for conservative politicians nationwide. Lawmakers in Iowa approved a similar law last week and at least a dozen states are considering similar legislation.

Funneling public funds toward private schools is not a new idea, but it picked up fresh steam following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic partly because of parents' concerns over masks and vaccines. The issue also has been driven by opposition to how some schools conduct lessons about topics such as gender, sexuality and race.

Critics of the bills say they siphon much-needed money away from public schools.

When Kansas' Republican-controlled Legislature opened its annual session earlier this month, GOP leaders planned to tackle what Senate President Ty Masterson called "the sexualized woke agenda" in how public schools discuss sexuality and gender identity.

Masterson, a Wichita-area Republican, said he wanted to pursue a measure that would spell out what schools could teach or discuss on those topics by grade level, much like the

Florida law enacted last year.

But last week when he was asked about such a measure, Masterson appeared to shift direction: "We're talking about school choice." He told The Associated Press on Monday: "Probably the only way to ultimately handle it, right, is to have choices for parents."

The proposal introduced in the House is the brainchild of its K-12 spending committee chair, state Rep. Kristey Williams, another Wichita-area Republican. She said she hopes to hold hearings next week.

Her bill would allow parents to apply to set up a state-sponsored education savings account for each of their children, with the state setting aside the current amount of its base aid per student for public schools. That's \$5,103 for the 2023-24 school year, an amount that would increase as the state boosts its aid. Parents would receive 95% and the state would use the rest to cover administrative costs.

Kansas already grants income tax credits for donations to funds providing scholarships so academically at-risk students can attend private schools, which is a program Republican lawmakers want to expand. But across the U.S., conservative lawmakers argue tax dollars should be tied to students, not "systems."

Williams also called her plan "the perfect answer" for parents frustrated over what public schools teach about gender, sexuality or the influence of racism in U.S. history. Currently, she said, parents can't change schools unless they can afford the extra costs.

"But with choice, it gives freedom to choose the best and most appropriate education, the best and most appropriate type of environment," she said.

Public education groups and Democratic lawmakers argue that such proposals will take money away from the state's K-12 schools for the benefit of private and home schools. They reject Masterson's characterization of public schools as becoming "factories for a radical social agenda," and argue that GOP conservatives are trying to

dismantle public education.

State Rep. Jarrod Ousley, a Kansas City-area Democrat whose wife serves on a local school board, said public schools help build communities.

"That's the fabric of our nation," Ousley said.

Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly strongly opposes a plan such as the one introduced in the House. Her big education initiative is phasing in a 61% increase over five years in spending on public K-12 programs for students with special needs.

Republicans have legislative supermajorities that would allow them to override a Kelly veto, though GOP leaders have found it difficult to keep Republicans united on education issues.

Meanwhile, advocates of private and home schooling argue that parents want more choices because they have been unhappy with remote schooling during the coronavirus pandemic.

Fallon Love, a Wichita resident who handles finances for restaurants in multiple states, has enrolled her 7-year-old son as a second grader at the Urban Preparatory Academy, run by the non-denominational Christian Faith Center in Wichita.

Love said she likes the academy's "intimate" learning environment and feels her son is learning positive character traits while getting opportunities like a trip last week to the Statehouse for a school choice rally.

"There are a lot of parents that aren't fortunate to be able to decide where their kids go," she said after that rally. "Everybody should have the right to decide where they want their child to go to get the best education."

Wade Moore, one of the church's bishops, told the crowd at the rally that a school-choice law like the one in Iowa allows parents to avoid "crazy stuff" in public schools. After the rally, he said he meant both violence, such as fighting, and issues such as which bathrooms and locker rooms transgender students can use.

"A lot of these things are being forced upon children, upon families," he said after the rally.

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# Brother vs. brother: Kelces prepare for Super Bowl showdown

By Dave Skretta

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Donna Kelce is going to have to pull out that now-familiar custom jersey — the one with Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce's front stitched to Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce's back — one more time this season.

At least this time, she'll get to see her boys in person.

For the first time in Super Bowl history, a pair of siblings will play each other on the NFL's grandest stage. Kelce helped the Chiefs return to their third championship game in four seasons on Sunday night when they beat the Bengals for the AFC title, while Jason has the Eagles back for the second time in six years after their NFC title win over the 49ers.

"Cool scenario to be in, you know?" Travis Kelce said. "My mom can't lose."

Or maybe can't win.

Indeed, there have been plenty of famous NFL siblings over the years, and many had some memorable matchups: Peyton vs. Eli Manning, Tiki vs. Ronde Barber. But they never reached the same Super Bowl, or had to put their dear old mom in such a predicament, where one will be hoisting the Lombardi Trophy at the other one's expense.

"It's going to be an amazing feeling playing against him," added Travis, whose team has gotten the better of big brother's Eagles the last three matchups. "I respect everyone over there in the Eagles organization. You won't see me talk too much trash because of how much I love my brother. But it's going to be an emotional game, for sure."

Jason Kelce was even ever-so-briefly a Chiefs fan Sunday night, pulling on a Kansas City sweatshirt for about the three hours between the end of the Eagles' 31-7 rout of San Francisco and the finish of his little brother's 23-20 win over Cincinnati.

"That's it for the rest of the year," Jason said with a smile. "I am done being a Chiefs fan."

He'll leave that to mom and dad.

While her husband, Ed, has mostly kept private over the years, Donna has been a fixture as she crisscrosses the country to watch her boys. During wild-card weekend last year, she started in Tampa Bay watching the Eagles against the Buccaneers, then hopped a plane to Kansas City in time to watch the Chiefs play the Steelers at night.

She already has seen both of her sons win Super Bowls, too: The Eagles beat the Patriots in 2018 in Minneapolis, and the Chiefs rallied to beat the 49ers in Miami two years later.

She hasn't seen much of them lately, though. The way the playoff schedule worked out for the divisional round and the conference championship games, it was impossible for Donna to make it to see both of her boys in person.

In any case, they've come a long way from their solidly middle-class upbringing in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Jason blazed the trail as the star offensive lineman who earned a scholarship to Cincinnati, and Travis soon followed suit. Both caught the eyes of NFL scout during their college careers, and of one coach in particular: Andy Reid.

It was Big Red who, while coaching the Eagles, used a sixth-round pick on Jason during the 2011 draft. And two years later, after Reid had gotten a fresh start in Kansas City, the Chiefs used a third-rounder to bring Travis into the fold.

"Big brother probably protected Travis from doing some crazy things. He probably talked him from dropping off a ladder into raked-up leaves once or twice," Reid said Monday. "Listen, they're both at heart very competitive and compassionate, is the biggest thing. They care and they care about people and they care about they're game."

They also happen to be very good at it.

Jason has been to six Pro Bowls and was just voted an All-Pro for the fifth time, and he's emerged as one of the best offensive linemen in Eagles history. Travis has been to eight Pro Bowls, just made a fourth All-Pro team and is second in NFL history to Jerry Rice in playoff catches, yards and touchdowns.

Football's not the only thing they're good at, either.

The brothers have new a podcast called "New Heights with Jason & Travis Kelce," which takes listeners on a riotous, real-time ride through the NFL season. The weekly shows are recorded on Tuesdays and last between 60 and 90 minutes, the two NFL stars playing off each other as if they were hanging out in mom's basement.

Special guests have included Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts and Chiefs counterpart Patrick Mahomes.

"They have a good mesh there, and a good relationship," Reid said. "I think Travis has grown up a lot. Jason probably came in a bit more mature — Travis was a little immature. But he's really grown into a good person."

"I have invested time in both of those two," Reid added, "so I feel like a part of the family."



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# Alfalfa County real estate

## Real Estate Transfers

Book 888 page 369: Scott Franklin Simon and Tabitha Unruh Simon convey unto Barton Ranch LLC. The southeast quarter of Section 4, Township 28 North, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 888 page 391: Lindel Ray McCollum and Dan Zhao McCollum convey unto Lindel McCollum Revocable Trust. A tract in the southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 24 North, Range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 888 page 403: Guy Russell Warner convey unto Angle Properties LLC. Lot 7 in Block 6 in the west side addition to the City of Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 888 page 405: Donald R. Jay and Anita Kaye Jay convey unto Heather Gottsch and Tanner Bowman. All of Lot 1 and the north 15 feet of Lot 2 in Block 3, Gilmore's Addition to the City of Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

# Alfalfa County court filings

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

## Misdemeanor Filings

Gary Lynn Price, Carmen, 19, has been charged with domestic abuse – assault and battery. (\$464)

Lori Lee Palmer, Jet, 62, has been charged with three counts of obstructing an officer. (\$904.50)

Kent P. Reed, Jet, 58, has been charged with obstructing an officer. (\$351.50)

## Small Claims Filings

David Campbell, Jet, vs. Service Oklahoma, Oklahoma City: lost title. (\$68)

## Marriage License Filings

Warren Lee Curl and Stacy E. Dickens, both of Jet: marriage license. (\$50)

## Traffic Citations

Travis Lee Hunter, Woodward, has been cited for operating vehicle loaded in excess of registered laden weight.

Aileen J. Hernandez, Choctaw, has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit. (\$264)

Isabella D. McMillan, Longview, Texas, has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit. (\$264)

Randy G. Schmidt, Goltry, has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit. (\$264)

Haley Marie Lopez, Dallas, has been cited for speeding 31-35 mph over the speed limit. (\$399)

Elizabeth Diane Wortham, Jenks, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

Kelton John O'Neil, Alva, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit. (\$100)

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# Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

**Monday, January 23, 2023**  
 During this day were three traffic stops.  
 1:39 a.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for an officer having difficulty breathing. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital.  
 9:10 a.m. – Report of a reckless white pickup truck on OK-8. Deputy had vehicle pulled over west of Burlington. All was okay.

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023**  
 During this day were three traffic stops.  
 12:06 a.m. – Medic needed in the 400 block of 6th Street for male with high blood pressure issues.  
 5:49 a.m. – Medic needed in the 1000 block of Massachusetts for a female with abdominal pain. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

12:14 p.m. – Lift assist needed in the 300 block of 2nd Street. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.  
 1:02 p.m. – Report of a dog out chasing cars at 5th Street and Ohio.

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023**  
 During this day were six traffic stops and one report of cattle out.  
 1:29 p.m. – Medic needed in the 400 block of 4th Street for a male who had a stroke back in March and was feeling weak and needed to go to the hospital. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

**Friday, January 27, 2023**  
 During this day were one traffic stop and one report of cattle out.

4:02 p.m. – Welfare check needed at the west side of the courthouse for a female in a vehicle who appeared to be passed out and had been there for a few hours. Officer advised he will be doing an accident report due to subject hitting the curb. Officer advised when the subject got out of the car there was odor of marijuana coming from the subject. Medic was released from the scene.

**Thursday, January 26, 2023**  
 During this day were two traffic stops.  
 12:08 a.m. – Alarm company advised of an alarm going off at Gateway Bank. All was okay.

3:06 a.m. – Medic needed on County Road 720 for a female who was weak and vomiting with low oxygen. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.  
 11:34 a.m. – Report of vandalism. Officer was advised.

4:17 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver on OK-58.

9:26 p.m. – Medic and fire department was needed in the 1000 block of Colorado for the caller's neighbor who was found passed out in their house by their son. Advised the son started feeling dizzy while inside. Advised it may be a possible gas leak. Medic took to adults to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

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From Page 36 **Sheriff**

9:10 a.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a female staff member having chest pains. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

12:49 p.m. – Report that a pit bull and small white dog attacked their cat and it ran up the tree at 9th Street and Oklahoma. Dog's owner were notified and en route to pick the dogs up. The cat was fine and removed from the tree.

7:50 p.m. – Panic alarm was triggered at United Supermarket. Advised it was a false alarm.

**Saturday, January 28, 2023**

During this day were eight traffic stops.

3:39 p.m. – Report of a raccoon complaint in the 300 block of Pennsylvania. Officer put the raccoon down.

4:49 p.m. – Caller stated their neighbors dog was in their backyard and showing aggression. Owner secured the dog.

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

During this day were three traffic stops.

3:21 p.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a male with low oxygen. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

9:40 p.m. – Medic needed at Chaparral Apartments for a female who believed she was having a heart attack. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

**Barber County real estate transactions**

**Real Estate Transfers**

Book 148 page 129: Ashlyn and Gabe Voth convey unto Navigate Home LLC. Towns Company addition (Kiowa), block 63, lot 11 and 12. Quit claim deed.

Book 148 page 134: Charles E. Achenbach conveys unto Ryan Laney. Lots 4 through 9, Block 14, Bell's Subdivision, in the City of Isabel, Kansas. Warranty deed.

Book 148 page 146: Grant S. Rogers conveys unto Deerhead Ranch LP. All that part of the northeast quarter of Section 10, Township 32

South, Range 14 West of the 6th PM. Quit claim deed.

Book 148 page 147: Daniel E. Trump and Marlene Trump convey unto Deerhead Ranch LP. All that part of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 10, Township 32 south, Range 14 West of the 6th PM. Quit claim deed.

Book 148 page 148: Danna K. Lee conveys unto Deerhead Ranch LP. All that part of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 10, Township 32 South, Range 14 West of the 6th PM. Quit claim deed.

Book 148 page 149:

See Barber Page 38

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# Community Calendar

## Wednesday

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

Noon Alva Kiwanis Club will meet at Cancun Mexican Grill.

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

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

## Thursday

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

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

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

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

## Friday

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

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# From Page 37 Barber

NAVigate Home LLC conveys unto Chad G. Trear. Lots 10, 11 and 12 in Block 63 in the Town Company's Addition to the City of Kiowa. Warranty deed.

Book 148 page 158: Joshua W. Hall and Danielle Hall convey unto Matthew J. McNamar and Deborah A. McNamar. All that part of the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 20, Township 32 South, Range 12 West of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 148 page 159: Jerry R. Blackwell conveys unto Cory H. Franks and Marilyn M. Franks. Lots 21, 23 and 25, except the west 5 feet of said lot 25, on Kansas Avenue west, in the original townsite of the City of Medicine Lodge. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 148 page 165: Deanna Davis, Adell Goodridge and Lynn Azbill, and Deborah Ross and Dennis Ross convey unto Elwin Schorock. Lot 7 and the west 40 feet of Lot 8 in Block 160 in Town and Company's Addition to the City of Kiowa, County of Barber, State of Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 148 page 168: Charles E. Watkins conveys unto Mark A. and Karen S. Tucker Revocable Trust. Town Company's addition (Kiowa), Block 153, lots 4, 5, 6 included in north half.

Quit claim deed.

Book 148 page 171: Brandon T. Farney and Marianna Farney convey unto City of Kiowa. Lot 21 in Block 32, in the City of Kiowa, Barber County, Kansas. Quit claims deed.

Book 148 page 172: City of Kiowa conveys unto Bryan Chevrolet Buick LLC. Lot 21 in Block 32 in the City of Kiowa, Barber County, Kansas. Quit claim deed.

## Mortgages

Book 249: Matthew J. McNamar and Deborah A. McNamar to Citizens Bank of Kansas. All that part of the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 20, Township 32 South, Range 12 West of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$40,000.00.

Book 249 page 168: Cory H. Franks and Marilyn M. Franks to Broker Solutions Inc. Lots 21, 23 and 25, except the west 5 feet of said lot 25 on Kansas Avenue west, in the original townsite of the City of Medicine Lodge. Note: \$51,058.00.

Book 249 page 187: Mark Long and Sabina Christina Long to Rocket Mortgage. Lot 1 on the west side of Walnut Street in Gobeille and Noble's Addition to the City of Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$126,100.00.

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<p><b>Mon., Feb. 6th</b> at 6 pm <b>ONLINE ONLY</b></p>	<p><u><b>Sheedy - Cook Online Auction</b></u> Furniture – Jewelry – Coins – Fiesta Willow Tree Figurines – Chicken/Rooster Décor – Vintage Kitchen – Quilting/ Cooking Books – Tupperware</p>
<p><b>Wed., Feb. 8th</b> at 10 am <b>LIVE/ONLINE</b></p>	<p><u><b>Ginger Vincent Auction</b></u> 5 Bedroom 4 Baths * ½ Acre * Quiet Neighborhood * Skyline Dr. * Large Backyard * Circle Drive * Cul De Sac Sprinkler System -524 N. Skyline Street, Stillwater, OK</p>
<p><b>Fri., Feb. 17th</b> at 10 am <b>LIVE/ONLINE</b></p>	<p><u><b>Land Auction</b></u> 172± Acres * Harper County, Anthony, KS Grass Pasture Cropland * Cattle pens SW 30 RD., Anthony, KS Kansas (Broker License: 49950)</p>

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