

How many freedoms are we willing to give up as Americans before we will stand up and fight back?

Patriot Star

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Former Oklahoma Chief Justice Battles State Farm

BY JC HALLMAN
Oklahoma Watch

On Monday, the Oklahoma Supreme Court met en banc – that is, nine justices gathered live – to hear 40 minutes of oral argument over Attorney General Gentner Drummond’s effort to intervene in *Hursh v. State Farm*, a bad faith insurance case that has come to represent upwards of 1,000 similar cases involving hail damage to Oklahoma roofs.

It was the second time in a

month that a portion of the symbolically significant *Hursh* case has reached the Supreme Court.

But lurking behind Monday’s arguments was an even more portentous second.

Two weeks ago, the months-long *State Farm* roof claim saga appeared to have reached maximum audacity with the story of the insurance giant’s refusal to pay the claim of retired administrative law judge James R. Linehan.

That turned out to be more prologue than postscript.

On Monday, as Oklahoma’s sitting justices weighed arguments and posed questions to attorneys about whether Drummond should be permitted to exercise heightened subpoena powers to access critical *State Farm* documents, one of the justices’ own colleagues, retired Chief Justice Joseph M. Watt, awaited word on the *State Farm* roof claim case that he and his wife first brought 10 weeks ago.

Let that sink in for a moment. In 2025, long after litigation over *State Farm* roof claims began

– that is, when it was already apparent that the lawsuits would one day ascend to the state’s highest court – *State Farm* refused to pay the claim of a retired chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Thousands of Citizens

The core issues of Monday’s argument, which saw the solicitor general of Oklahoma pitted against a former solicitor general, were presented in briefs submitted over the past several months.

Former solicitor general Mithun

Mansinghani of the Oklahoma City offices of national litigation firm Lehotsky Keller Cohn, representing *State Farm*, argued in a brief that Drummond had been too aggressive, in general, in inserting himself in litigation in Oklahoma. Furthermore, Mansinghani said, the *Hursh* case, which *State Farm*’s attorneys have doggedly argued should be considered in isolation despite hundreds of virtually identical cases, did not

See **COURT** / Page 8

PC-H STEM Students Attend State

PRESS RELEASE

Pond Creek-Hunter offers STEM classes (Science Technology Engineering Math) to sixth through 12th graders.

It is a career tech program with a professional organization called the Technology Student Association (TSA). Seven PC-H members attended the TSA State Conference recently, where they participated in state-wide competitions.

High school member Jeremiah McFadin participated in the dragster competition, which involved building and racing a dragster, drawing top and side views with metric measurements and providing a detailed supply list. He placed 19th out of 282 dragsters.

Two middle school students, Joleigh Brown and Trenten Wilson, teamed up in the drone challenge (UAV). They had to assemble a presentation on the use of drones with first responders, police, firefighters and medical emergency teams and had to fly a drone through a maze as fast as possible, taking no more time than one minute. They gave great effort, but did not make it to the semifinals, according to sponsor Christian Taylor.

Four high school students, Kennedy McReynolds, Addy Coons, Averie Polasek, and Kyra Russell, competed in the fashion design contest. They had to create an outfit for a villain that included at least one 3D-printed item. They were required to make their own pattern, sew the outfit, create at least one 3D item to be incorporated, build a portfolio covering the outfit in detail, model the outfit with a narration and participate in an interview.

In the first round, they placed eighth out of 38 teams, making it to the semifinals. For the final results, the top three teams were announced, and the final placements were not shared, “but the girls did a great job,” Taylor said.



POND CREEK-HUNTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pond Creek-Hunter students Joleigh Brown, Trenten Wilson, Addie Coons, Kennedy McReynolds, Kyra Russell, Averie Polasek and Jeremiah McFadin recently participated in the TSA State Conference.



MEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special Olympics: Cardinals Fare Well at Tourney

The Medford Cardinals Special Olympics team had a great showing at their area bocce tournament held at Enid High School recently. Alexa Kalblinger and Pepper Irvin took first place in their unified bocce bracket, while Jairon Durant and Mickey Rhea earned second place in their unified bracket. In the traditional/singles bracket, Naomi Wilson placed second and Martina Wilson brought home third. The Cardinals will head to Stillwater on May 14-15 to compete in bocce and bowling at the Oklahoma Special Olympics Summer Games.

Musk Thistle Round Up Heads to Grant County on May 7

PRESS RELEASE

Musk thistle arrived in the United State in 1853 and was first detected in Oklahoma in the 1940s. Known for its striking purple flowers and spiny leaves, the musk thistle may look beautiful – but its unchecked growth threatens native ecosystems, livestock forage and agricultural productivity, according to Grant County Extension 4-H/Ag Educator and CED Emily Franke.

The dense, spiny thistle patches discourage grazing by cattle, leading to a decline in usable pasture. Left unmanaged, infestations can reduce land values and increase maintenance costs.

Musk thistles are typically biennial but can act as an annual weed. The biennial musk thistle germinates in

the spring, spends the first year as a rosette then the second spring bolts and flowers.

The annual musk thistle germinates in the fall, then overwinters as a rosette and bolts and flowers the following spring. The difference in the two varieties can be seen in the stem. The biennial version is usually multi-stemmed where the annual has a single stem. Each plant can produce more than 10,000 seeds that can be viable in the ground for up to nine years.

Efforts to combat musk thistle include mechanical removal, herbicide treatments and the introduction of biological control agents, such as the musk thistle weevils. However, each method comes with challenges, accord-

ing to Franke.

The Alfalfa County/Grant County OSU Extension office is hosting a Musk Thistle Control & Weevil Roundup on May 7 at the Grant County Expo in Pond Creek at 9 a.m. Landowners will be able to learn from Dr. Laura Goodman, extension specialist for rangeland ecology, about the different options they have for controlling musk thistles.

After the presentation, the crew will head to the field to collect musk thistle weevils that they can take home and release on their musk thistles. Producers are encouraged to bring leather gloves and wear closed-toed shoes. Sweep nets and cups for collecting will be provided.



FILE PHOTO

Hoops: Guard Receives Invitation

Medford High School senior Ady Hammons tries to get past a Seiling defender during this year’s State tournament. The guard was recently selected to participate in the annual 101 Classic Bowl basketball game in Woodward late May.



POND CREEK-HUNTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Floor: Out With the Old, In With the New

The old Pond Creek-Hunter gymnasium will have a new look soon. Starting on May 4 the old floor will be replaced with a new one. For current or past PC-H students who want to preserve memories made on the old gym floor contact Darin Jones at (580) 554-0998. There is no cost required to obtain a piece of Pond Creek-Hunter history for its nostalgic benefits.

NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (580) 395-2212 or email jjump@medfordpatriotstar.com

Permanent Cellphone Ban in Schools Heads to Stitt's Desk

BY NURIA MARTINEZ-KEEL
Oklahoma Voice

OKLAHOMA CITY – A permanent ban on student use of cellphones in public schools is on its way to the governor's desk. House Bill 1276 passed 83-7 on Tuesday. The Senate resurrected the 2025 bill, amended it and passed it April 15.

The bill would make permanent Oklahoma's yearlong prohibition on students using cellphones and other non-school-issued electronic devices during the school day. Positive feedback from educators and parents have led lawmakers to deem the "bell-to-bell" cellphone ban a success. "Making this ban permanent I think will tremendously improve

the academic focus in our classrooms for years to come," the bill's House author, Rep. Chad Caldwell (R-Enid) said. Oklahoma's current ban will become optional for districts after the 2025-26 academic year without further action to make it permanent. The state is one of 20 that bans use of wireless communication de-

VICES in classrooms for the entire instructional day. Some Oklahoma districts have prohibited cellphone use for years. Lawmakers passed the statewide ban with the goal of implementing a universal policy to reduce classroom distractions. "This legislation is one of the most meaningful bills written during my time in the House,"

House Speaker Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) said. "I've heard from both parents and teachers who are grateful for this reform. Hallways are loud again, students are playing UNO at lunch, and they're actually interacting with one another. This legislation permanently allows kids to be kids, and our teachers to teach in our classrooms."

PC-H FCCLA Students Attend State Convention in Tulsa

PRESS RELEASE

Pond Creek-Hunter's Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students attended the State convention earlier this month at the Tulsa Convention Center. They began their day attending the general session by watching FCCLA awards and business, entertainment and

listening to a motivational speaker. Following the general session, members attended two workshops of their choice. Throughout the convention, members collected information and pictures to participate in the PC-H chapter's contest. After the convention, the group spent time together at Tulsa's Incredible Food and Fun.

OBITUARY

BONNIE MARIE FISHER MUEGGE

Bonnie Marie Fisher Muegge, 86, passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at her home.

Bonnie was born on Sept. 13, 1939, in Cushing to Dick Henry Fisher and Marie Elizabeth Walter Fisher. She attended grade school in Cushing for two years before attending Hillside School north of Cushing until eighth grade. She graduated from Cushing High School in 1957. Bonnie was very active in 4-H, showing sheep, pigs and cattle, and she excelled in 4-H record keeping. She was inducted into the Oklahoma 4-H Hall of Fame in 1958. She was a member of Future Homemakers of America and Student Council, and she was named FFA Sweetheart in 1956.



Bonnie received a bachelor of science degree in home economics from Oklahoma State University in 1961. At OSU, she was a member of Chi Omega Sorority. She was active in Home Economics Student Council, serving as president; Collegiate 4-H, Women's Choral Club, Home Economics Club, Dairy Science Club and the Wesley Foundation. In October of 1960, Bonnie was crowned Oklahoma State University Homecoming Queen.

After graduating from OSU, Bonnie served as the youth director at First United Methodist Church in Cushing from 1961 to 1964. From 1964 to 1966, she worked as a home service consultant for Oklahoma Gas & Electric in Ada.

Bonnie married Don Ernest Muegge on March 12, 1966, in Cushing and they celebrated 60 years of marriage in 2026. After their marriage, Don and Bonnie established a home in Lamont, and Bonnie worked alongside Don in the family business.

Bonnie was very involved in numerous local and area organizations. She served on the Commons Retirement Community board for 29 years, serving as president for part of her tenure, and the Wheatland Mental Health Board for nine years. She also served on the boards of Community Development Support Association (CDSA), Lamont Housing Authority and the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. She was a 4-H volunteer for 16 years, receiving the

Meritorious 4-H Service Recognition Award. She was a member of Willing Workers Extension Homemakers, Order of the Eastern Star and a lifetime member of the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association.

Bonnie was a devoted member of the Lamont United Methodist Church, serving on numerous committees during her lifelong membership, and she was active in United Methodist Women.

Don and Bonnie received the Governor's Conservation Award, and they received certificates of appreciation from the Lamont American Legion Post #209 for their service to the American Legion and from the United States Department of Energy for their support of the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) program.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents, Dick and Marie Fisher; her brother, Dr. Edwin D. Fisher; her son-in-law, Preston Rash; and her grandson-in-law, Hayden Welch.

She is survived by husband, Don, of the home; daughter, Dea Muegge Rash of Stillwater; sons: Chad F. Muegge and wife, Shelly, of Lamont, Clay A. Muegge and wife, Jennifer, of Lamont and Zeljko Nikolic of Mequon, Wisconsin; grandchildren: Kendra Rash Morrisette and husband, Justin, Madison Rash Welch, Elliot Muegge and wife, Morgan, Marian Muegge Marshall and husband, Derrick, Katherine Muegge, Harrison Muegge and wife, Caroline, Caroline Muegge Feghali and husband, Elie, Fisher Muegge and wife, Lauren, William Muegge and Dominik and Nolan Nikolic; great-grandchildren: Kendrick and Korbin Morrisette, Banner Welch, Silas, Finn, Islah and Evelyn Muegge, Eden, Joy, Matthew and John Marshall, Benjamin Muegge and Juliette Feghali; and many other relatives and friends.

Her celebration of life will be held on Monday, May 4, at 11 a.m. at First Church of Lamont. A light lunch will be served at Kat's Steakhouse following the service. It is the family's wishes that everyone come together to visit and share memories of Bonnie. Interment will be at the Lamont Cemetery following lunch.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund of First Church of Lamont, with The State Exchange Bank, P.O. Box 7, Lamont, OK, 74643, serving as custodian, or the charity of your choice.

Bonnie's celebration of life will be streamed at the following link: firstchurchlamont.org. Click "Join live." Arrangements were made by Wilson Funeral Home, Pond Creek.

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OPINION

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Mostly About Nothing

By Cecil Hoar

What a wild and woolly weekend hit us, as a tremendous hailstorm slashed across the southern end of our county and most of Pond Creek.

Roofs, siding, car tops and glass were damaged, as well as our coming wheat crop. Already hurt by the drought, this amazing weather phenomena has “done-in” a number of fields and did a good job of de-leaving or damaging

our trees just starting to blossom.

I told my wife, “Look at the bright side, the Elm sap will not create the problems it usually generates.” Thank God, looks don’t kill!

We hope area insurance agencies don’t scam us as this area looks to be a really expensive project to clean up.

Speaking of scams, we had more phone-generated scams this week than ever.

They must all think we Trumpster-aged folk might be in for easy pickings.

Two weeks ago, an excited caller reported that our cable box needed to be updated in order to give us good reception. I asked him politely, “What kind of cable box do I have?” His answer, “The one on your TV, which will take only a few minutes of your time, if you let us have it, now.” When I said, “No dice. I’m

on Pioneer,” a loud click appeared immediately.

The second problem occurred when a spokesman for Wal-Mart said that a \$900 new Play Station had been charged to my phone account, which was supposedly listed at this number. It needed to be addressed and gave me a number to do so. A spokeswoman came on whom I asked, “What store was this deal made at?” Her reply flabbergast-

ed me as she said either Rome, N.Y.; Chicago or Columbus, Ohio. I asked her, “How can an ol’cogger living in rural Oklahoma be at any of those three places, let alone need a Play Station to confuse him more than he is?” Another click proceeded

Finally, the best was from an agent who called reporting they were going to cut off my Direct TV bill of \$150, if I didn’t pay it im-

mediately over the phone. That’s when I began feeling really good and reported, “Do it!”

Not having Direct TV, I knew that Pioneer Telephone does not allow obnoxious callers to take care of financial problems when they know it’s local gals who are perfectly able to handle this chore. Many times, I’ve found out the hard way and have learned to appreciate it, too.

Factual, Satirical, Humorous Comments From a Deranged Sooner Fan

By Jack LaFay

Musings and More – Great News

Boomer Sooner has not fallen this past week; however, I utilize a walking stick when working in my flower gardens. My body is slowly recovering from last week’s crash and burn falls. It is hard to believe Ole’Boomer will turn 80 in January. My mind thinks I’m in the 50s, but my body screams you’re close to 80!

Before one eagerly engages in this week’s powerful and inspirational article, Boomer Sooner feels there needs to be an explanation of a word that was commonly used in the 20th century. The word is nooner, which means sexual activity at noon, and the word is used several times in the article, but by no means am I promoting porn.

Way back in the 20th century, Ole’Boomer conducted an interview for a fifth through 12th grade band instructor position within the Stanton County School District, with the candidate being a spring graduate of Rock Chalk Jayhawk Land. The applicant was an attractive and articulate young lady who came highly recommended by the instrumental music department at KU; furthermore,

her rural high school claimed she was a rock star in academics, activities and leadership. Ole’Boomer felt this young lady was the candidate for Stanton County Schools, and now I had to convince her to move to southwest Kansas, where it never rains and the wind blows constantly.

During Boomer’s 20-plus years in school administration, 99 percent of his hires were applicants from rural communities in Kansas, Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle, eastern New Mexico, eastern Colorado and Nebraska.

Boomer Sooner is a big-time believer in rural school districts and the communities they serve. Rural school students are noted for their work ethic, grit, common sense and willingness to work with people. After the interview, Boomer drove the candidate around the community and introduced her to various folks around town. Boomer Sooner had this prearranged with townspeople.

The journey to the post office was hilarious. The postmaster got so excited talking to the applicant that Boomer thought he was going to have a heart attack. My wife showed up at the post office to mail some letters from the

county attorney’s office, looked at me, and grinned, saying, “Looks like you’re enjoying the afternoon, big guy.”

One of Boomer’s administrative goals for the next school year was to showcase our middle school band. I had this brilliant idea of having a noontime brown bag concert on the courthouse lawn in late October. We would have this music extravaganza on a Friday of a home football game. Our new band lady loved the idea of a noontime concert and began preparing on the first day of school. Thursday before the concert, the band instructor handed me a note, smiled and walked away. The note stated, “Don’t forget our nooner tomorrow on the courthouse lawn!” Ole’Boomer stuffed the note in his pocket and headed down the hallway. That evening, when Boomer got home, he placed the note along with his keys on the nightstand by the bed. His wonderful wife read the note and exclaimed, “What the heck is this?” Boomer told her it was regarding the brown bag noon concert on the courthouse lawn.

The morning of the concert, my wife called the school and stated, “You need to drive downtown

and view the signs in the intersections.” The signs announced, “Bring a brown bag lunch and view the middle school nooner concert on the courthouse lawn - you will enjoy!” Ole’Boomer and the school secretary quickly made some new signs. The concert was a success with a great attendance. There is never a dull moment as a school administrator.

Cheerleader Club

Back in the mid-1970s, Boomer Sooner had a brainy idea about creating a cheerleader club and dismissing the traditional way of cheerleader selection. This club was going to be the bedrock of school spirit. Our cheer sponsor eagerly accepted the new concept regarding the world of middle school cheerleading. We provided a sharply designed t-shirt, shorts and a wind suit. We averaged 30 cheerleaders, which covered a large segment of the gym floor and track when doing their cheers. We had a weekly practice after sports workouts, and you could not skip practice without the sponsor’s approval. Parents brought snacks for the students during practice. During basketball season, we took the cheer club to

a junior college basketball game to cheer during halftime. It was around a 100-mile journey to either Dodge City, Garden City or Liberal. The community colleges enjoyed having our young folks perform at their activities.

Boomer Sooner estimates approximately 90 percent of our cheer club either cheered or participated in our dance team during their high school career. Ole’Boomer has fond memories of the cheerleader club and the excitement of the members and their parents.

Thoughts for Today

The Trumpster should tell all the illegal aliens that he would grant them citizenship if they register and vote as Republicans, and see how fast those sneaky Socialist Dems want them out of the country. The fact that Socialist Dems slobber and demonstrate wild and woolly emotions when discussing a voter ID bill tells you that cheating is a commonplace occurrence in their daily lives.

Thoughts and prayers for the folks impacted by the horrific storms in Oklahoma this past week.

Stay safe Grant County.

We the People

By Tom Horn

It’s been a busy week, starting off locally on what I call “Black Friday” when a major tornado set down just several miles north of us, and along with a couple other tornadoes headed east, just barely missing Braman and finally fizzling out at Newkirk’s doorstep.

Then there was the massive Enid tornado that wiped out dozens of upscale homes and nearly wiped out an even larger housing addition on the east side of Enid, fortunately making a right turn before it hit the addition.

Since then, I’ve been hearing all kinds of great stories about neighbors and first responders rushing in to help along with donating items and offering their homes to stay in. Texas Roadhouse and Chili’s were passing out free meals. The Roadhouse was feeding the now homeless residents of

Gray Ridge with Chili’s doing the same along with offering free burger meals to first responders. I’m sure there were other businesses that stepped up to help, but these are the only two I heard of.

I understand several tornadoes touched down Saturday night in southeast Oklahoma, but I haven’t heard much word on any damage they did. It looks like it’s going to be an active tornado season this year.

Then, on Saturday night there was what, the third or fourth assassination attempt on the president? I have no doubt that is a record. The actual incident is pretty sketchy.

I saw a video of the suspect rushing past a security checkpoint, and at least half a dozen Secret Service agents drawing their guns and pointing them, but there

was no sound on the video. I can only assume they opened fire on the threat.

When the dust settled, though, the suspect, who had a bag full of guns and knives, opened fire on the agents, striking one in the chest which his ballistic vest stopped. Then, there’s just a picture of the suspect lying face down in handcuffs. The shooter was tackled and taken to the ground without being wounded.

So evidently, if those agents did open fire at a suspect that was shooting at them, at a distance of probably about 30 feet, they all missed. The shooter is a 31-year-old teacher, who lives at home with his parents in Southern California. In his manifesto they found that he described the president with every foul title that the left-wing media is flooding the airwaves with

(rapist, pedophile, Hitler, fascist, etc).

Let’s talk about Iran.

I’m sure even a lot of MAGA people are wondering what in the world is he doing over there? While he’s trying to open up the Strait of Hormuz, he’s also blockading it himself.

He keeps trying to get Iran to discuss a peace agreement, but the Iranians do what they do best, stall, and Trump doesn’t seem to mind.

This is my take on the whole deal.

When the Iranians blocked the Strait of Hormuz, they weren’t blocking all ships from passing. They were allowing their oil tankers to go through to China or wherever. When Trump finally realized this, he had the Navy completely blockade the Strait. No more Iranian tankers were

allowed to leave.

The way I heard Trump explain it, Iran produces lots of oil, but their efficiency of getting oil out of the ground and into tankers is working against them with this blockade. They have limited space to store their oil which I’m sure is full by now.

What can they do with all that oil backing up? Their choice is either spill it on the ground, or shut down their wells, which is devastating to a well, so, Trump is waiting patiently while the Iranians are going broke and stopping all their oil production.

Did you happen to see that video that Iran put out of their soldiers approaching a tanker trying to run through the Strait and boarding it? I was wondering how in the world could a bunch of pirates board a tall oil tanker from a small

speedboat. If you watched the video you would have seen a small door open on the side of the tanker with a rope ladder dangling down to the water for the pirates to board the ship.

Now why in the world would the captain of that tanker do that. The answer is simple. It was an Iranian tanker, and it was meant to scare the other ships considering crossing the strait.

I’m not going to show any more slides of our recent cruise. I’m afraid it’s boring too many of you. I did write up a complete review of our cruise and posted it on cruisecritic.com and Trip Advisor. If you want to read it on either site, just find ship reviews for MSC Seascope. My review is titled “MSC...a different flavor of cruise ships.” I will discuss cruising in general in a later column.

Miles to Go

By Stephanie Jump, Co-Owner, M³ Publishing LLC

There used to be a song, can’t remember the name of it at the moment, but the gist of it was “miles to go before I sleep.” I put about 600 miles on my car last week, and that kind of feels like life for us at the moment. We are in a mad rush to finish the school year, this week alone, our family has something every single night. Every, single, night!

A couple of banquets, a couple of track meets, a concert. There is something on our schedule each evening

that makes sleep feel like an impossible dream at this point.

I am not sure right now whether I am coming or going because on the top of crazy schedule we are trying to get out five, yes five, different graduation issues for next week in time for all the big celebrations. So if you are a parent of a senior, please make sure to pick up a copy in the coming weeks, or maybe a few to share with grandmas and grandpa, aunts and uncles.

So with all the craziness of life, we just are taking it one day at a time up here in Kansas. Hoping for some rain, hoping for some warmer weather (it is cold here as I write this.) But most of all, we are hoping to have a little bit of a break so that we can take a breather before the summer season gets into full swing.

We have about two and a half weeks, and then all the kiddos are going to be home. At least, I think they are. I am not quite sure on

the oldest two’s plans yet, but they better figure it out because mom and dad could use a few more hands around here to help move things along.

Last night I took this treat to our athletic banquet, and it was gone by the end of the night. If you need a quick dessert idea to take to a gathering, I suggest these. We first had these at a little Baptist church in Texas where Jason had gone to preach one Sunday and they treated us to “dinner

on the grounds.” If you go to church in the south, you know what that means, really, really good food.

These were a new treat and boy have we enjoyed them ever since. I will be honest, these measurements are probably not exact, I cook with “my heart.”

Apple Dumplings

2 cans of crescent roll dough

2 peeled Granny Smith apples cut into quarters, (I then cut them again)

1 cup of butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup sugar
cinammon to taste
Mountain Dew

Preheat oven to about 400. Wrap a chunk of apple in a piece of crescent roll dough. Place into greased 13x9 inch pan. Repeat until pan is full. Melt butter and mix in sugars and cinammon. It should make a “sludge” to top rolls with. Pour Mountain Dew around the pan, I usually use about 3/4 can or so. Bake until apples are tender.

SPORTS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (580) 395-2212 or email jjump@medfordpatriotstar.com

Cardinals End Baseball Season at District Tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Medford baseball team's season ended at the district tournament last Thursday in Timberlake with losses to Arnett and the host team.

Against Arnett, the Cardinals lost 13-7. The Cardinals led for most of the game, up 7-6 through six innings, before Arnett broke it open in the seventh inning with seven runs.

While the Cardinals had more hits than the Wildcats, with 12 to Arnett's seven, the Wildcats got more runners on base in the seventh thanks to dropped third strikes, walks and players who were hit by pitches.

For the game, the Wildcats drew 12 walks and had five players hit by a pitch. The Cardinals drew three walks and had two players hit by a pitch.

Medford took a 2-0 lead in the first inning after Trent Lohmann singled to left field to score Brenden Winter and Jax Johnson.

Arnett got on the board in the second inning after scoring a run on a passed ball, then added another in the third after the bases were loaded on walks, then batter Josh Campbell was hit by a pitch.

Medford took a 5-2 lead in the bottom of the third

after Laken Lamle singled to second base to score Lane Barwick, Logan Hammons singled to second to score Winter and Mason Drees drew a bases-loaded walk.

The Cardinals added another run in the fourth inning after Winter stole home plate.

Arnett cut the lead to 6-3 after Bayne Strick scored on a fielder's choice with one out. The Wildcats then added two more runs in the sixth, with one run scored on a fielder's choice with one out and another scored on a passed ball.

Medford added another run in the bottom of the sixth as Winter's single to shortstop scored Johnson. But then came the seventh, in which the Cardinals were unable to close it out.

Winter pitched one-and-one-third innings and gave up one unearned run off no hits with three walks and one strikeout. Lamle pitched one-and-one-third innings and gave up one run off no hits with three walks and one strikeout. Lane Barwick pitched four innings and gave up 11 runs, seven earned, off seven hits with five walks and eight strikeouts. Johnson pitched one-third of an inning with one walk.

Winter was 3-for-4 at the



JASON JUMP / Patriot-Star

Medford pitcher Lane Barwick watches as a ball is delivered to the plate during last Thursday's district opener against Arnett. The Cardinals went through seven different pitchers in two games last week. MHS lost game one 13-7 against the Wildcats and then fell 13-9 to host Timberlake.

plate with one run batted in, Lohmann was 3-for-4 with two RBIs, Barwick was 2-for-4 with a double and Lamle was 2-for-4 with one RBI.

The Cardinals then lost to Timberlake 13-9. It was another game that saw Medford take the early lead, up 5-0 after the first two innings, but the Tigers came back to tie it 5-5 in the third.

Timberlake then added four runs in the fifth, with Medford rallying in the sixth to tie it 9-9. But the

Tigers then scored four more runs in the bottom of the sixth and the Cardinals were unable to answer in the seventh.

Medford had nine hits and one error while the Tigers had 14 hits and two errors. The Cardinals drew 10 walks and had two batters hit by a pitch, while the Tigers drew three walks and had two batters hit by a pitch.

In the first inning, Winter's single to centerfield scored Johnson, then he would steal home with the

bass loaded. The ball then got away from the catcher, allowing Tucker Duke to score to make it 3-0.

Medford's two runs in the second inning came off a single by Duke that scored Johnson and an error that allowed Winter to score.

The Cardinals' four runs in the sixth came after Lohmann and Johnson each stole home and Barwick and Mason Drees each scored on a bases-loaded walk.

Winter was 3-for-4 at the plate with one RBI, Barwick

was 2-for-4 and Duke was 2-for-5 with one RBI.

On the mound, Lamle pitched two-and-two-third innings and gave up five runs off six hits with one walk and five strikeouts. Johnson pitched two-and-two-third innings and gave up seven runs off seven hits with one walk and two strikeouts. Winter pitched two-thirds of an inning and gave up one run off one hit with one walk.

Medford finished with a 3-11-1 overall record.

Medford Track Closes Out Regular Season at Wildcat Relays in Covington

STAFF REPORT

The Medford High School track athletes competed at the Covington-Douglas Wildcat Relays on Monday, the final track meet for the Cardinals and Lady Cardinals before Regionals.

Medford will attend the Class A Regional meet at Jay on Saturday. The top three placers in each event will qualify for the State meet. The remaining qualifiers will be determined based on the top four performances outside the top three in each event from all Regionals.

Complete results for the boys at Covington were:

100-meter dash: Collin Scantling, 12.69; Cruz Vargas, 13.07
200-meter dash: Gunnar Ebert, fifth,

24.88; Cole Crochet, 26.60; Cruz Vargas, 28.04.

400-meter dash: Mason Drees, 1:00.47; Cole Crochet, 1:02.34.

800-meter run: Cash Kelley, second, 2:06.26.

110-meter hurdles: Kingston Edwards, first, 16.45; Lyric Horn, second, 17.37; Nick Moss, 21.61.

300-meter hurdles: Lyric Horn, third, 44.78; Nick Moss, 54.49.

4x100-meter relay: Medford, third, 46.51.

4x200-meter relay: Medford, fifth, 1:39.02.

4x400-meter relay: Medford, second, 3:46.48.

4x800-meter relay: Medford, third, 9:05.70.

High jump: Reese Royal, third, 5-10.

Long jump: Kingston Edwards, second, 20-0; Kyler Beech, third, 19-7; Raegan Gottsch, sixth, 18-9.5.

Pole vault: Mason Drees, first, 9-6.

Shot put: Brenden Winter, 35-10; Price Locke, 35-3; Balen Grell, 34-1.5.

Complete results for the girls at Covington were:

100-meter dash: Allison Solis, fifth, 13.62; Alyssa Byroads, 14.53; Harleigh Reimer, 15.32.

200-meter dash: Madi Corder, fifth, 28.67; Allison Solis, 29.65; Alyssa Byroads, 31.4; Harleigh Reimer, 32.87.

400-meter dash: Kaydence Kilian, third, 1:05.34; Allison Solis, 1:07.33; Serenity Pearce, 1:22.20.

800-meter run: Brinklee Blanton, sixth, 2:42.53.

1600-meter run: Brennan Locke, third, 6:04.96.

100-meter hurdles: Caedyn Abele, fifth, 19.16.

300-meter hurdles: Kenna Kilian, second, 51.39; Caedyn Abele, fifth, 55.44.

4x100-meter relay: Medford, first, 52.82.

4x200-meter relay: Medford, first, 1:50.08.

4x400-meter relay: Medford, first, 4:18.30.

4x800-meter relay: Medford, second, 10:24.19.

Long jump: Madi Corder, first, 15-3. Discus: Chezney Dell, 86-4. Shot put: Chezney Dell, 26-3.

Panthers Ready for Regional Playoffs

STAFF REPORT

The Pond Creek-Hunter baseball team got a bye out of district play and will head to the Class A-II Regional tournament Thursday at Union City.

The Panthers will open the tournament at 1:30 p.m. against Cheyenne-Reydon (14-8). In the other first-round Regional game, Union City (22-4) will face Ninnekah (11-16) at 11 a.m.

Union City is ranked fourth in Class A-II, while Cheyenne-Reydon is ranked 16th and Pond Creek-Hunter is ranked 18th.

The winners of those games will play each other Thursday at 4 p.m. while the losers face each other at 6:30 p.m. in the double-elimination tournament. The winner of the 4 p.m. game advanced to the finals while the two remaining teams will face each other Friday at 4 p.m., with the finals held at 6:30 p.m. If another game is necessary, it will be played Saturday at 2 p.m.

Last Thursday, the Panthers closed the regular season against Seiling, falling short 17-12. It was a game in which the Wildcats got the bats going with 13 hits in the game, while the Panthers had just five.

The Panthers didn't help their cause with eight errors, though Seiling has seven. PC-H batters drew nine walks in the game, while the Wildcats drew 10. Two Panther batters were hit by a pitch while one Wildcat batter was hit by a pitch.

PC-H held a 2-1 lead after the top of the second, but the Wildcats broke it open with six runs in the bottom of the second. Though the Panthers cut the lead to 7-4 in the top of the third, Seiling pulled away again with three runs in the bottom of the third.

But the Panthers then tied the game 10-10 with a six-run fourth inning, then went up 12-10 after scoring twice in the fifth. But in the sixth, the Wildcats rallied for seven runs and PC-H was held scoreless in the seventh.

At the plate, Kohl Chavez went 1-for-3 with one run batted in and Brady Schuermann was 1-for-3 with two RBIs. Tegan Cowherd had two RBIs in the game and getting one RBI apiece were Blayne Tefft, Laker Easley, Tate Francisco and Kooper Kelso.

On the mound, Kreighton Weder pitched two innings and gave up seven runs, one earned, off six hits with three walks and one strikeout. Kelso pitched two innings and gave up three runs off four hits and three strikeouts. Chavez pitched one inning and gave up four runs, three earned, on no hits with five walks and one strikeout. Easley pitched one inning and gave up three runs, two earned, on three hits with no walks and one strikeout.

Pond Creek-Hunter Tracksters Compete at Covington-Douglas Meet

STAFF REPORT

The Pond Creek-Hunter track athletes competed at the Covington-Douglas Wildcat Relays on Monday, the final track meet for the Panthers and Lady Panthers before Regionals.

Pond Creek-Hunter will compete at the Class A Regional meet at Cherokee Saturday. The top three placers in each event will qualify for the State meet. The remaining qualifiers will be determined based on the top four performances outside the top three in each event from all Regionals.

Complete results for the boys at Covington were:

100-meter dash: Kyson Davis, 11.95; Kohl Chavez, 12.15; Blayne Tefft, 12.78; Nic Williams, 14.97; Rance Hodge, 15.65.

200-meter dash: Kyson Davis, third, 24.15; Conna Seek, 28.02; Nic Williams, 32.29.

400-meter dash: Kohl Chavez, sixth, 58.51.

300-meter hurdles: Kyson Davis,

first, 43.43.

4x100-meter relay: PC-H, sixth, 47.31.

Shot put: Parker Grounds, 36-10; Carlos Robinson, 36-2.

Complete results for the girls at Covington were:

200-meter dash: Maci Westrope, 29.00; Hadlee Merriott, 30.53.

400-meter dash: Maci Westrope, fourth, 1:05.91.

4x100-meter relay: PC-H, fourth, 54.77.

4x200-meter relay: PC-H, fourth, 1:55.75.

High jump: Alana Banks, second, 4-10.

Discus: Kennedy McReynolds, fifth, 94-6; Ember Seek, 85-5.

Shot put: Ember Seek, third, 34-4.5; Kennedy McReynolds, fifth, 32-10.5.

PC-H at Cherokee Meet

The Pond Creek-Hunter track athletes competed at the Cherokee track meet Friday.

Complete results for the boys were:

4x100-meter relay: PC-H, fourth, 47.02.

110-meter hurdles: Kyson Davis, fourth, 18.50.

100-meter dash: Kohl Chavez, fourth, 11.99; Carlos Robinson, 14.62; Rance Hodge, 15.11; Ethan Stephens, 16.37.

4x200-meter relay: PC-H, sixth, 1:40.48.

300-meter hurdles: Kyson Davis, third, 44.94.

200-meter dash: Kohl Chavez, 24.80; Conna Seek, 27.46.

Shot put: Carlos Robinson, 35-2; Parker Grounds, 35-1.

Complete results for the girls were:

100-meter dash: Hadlee Merriott, 14.11; Andre Ortiz, 14.14.

400-meter dash: Maci Westrope, fourth, 1:05.83.

200-meter dash: Maci Westrope, third, 28.41.

Shot put: Ember Seek, second, 33-4; Kennedy McReynolds, third, 32-9.

Discus: Ember Seek, seventh, 96-3; Kennedy McReynolds, 91-11.

Deer Creek-Lamont Track Teams Travel to Covington for Wildcat Relays

STAFF REPORT

The Deer Creek-Lamont track athletes competed at the Covington-Douglas Wildcat Relays on Monday, the final track meet for the Eagles before Regionals.

DCLA will attend the Class A Regional meet at Jay on Saturday. The top three placers in each event will qualify for State. The remaining qualifiers will be determined based on the top four performances.

Complete results for the boys at Covington were:

100-meter dash: Will Muegge, third,

11.49; Tripp Briggs, 11.83; Tayt Hazelwood, 12.83.

200-meter dash: Paxton Schneeberger, 29.67.

400-meter dash: Gage Webster, 1:02.36; Paxton Schneeberger, 1:05.67.

800-meter run: Brice Bledsoe, third, 2:06.60.

110-meter hurdles: Chase Andrews, third, 18.76.

300-meter hurdles: Chase Andrews, 47.08.

4x100-meter relay: DCLA, first, 44.62.

4x800-meter relay: DCLA, first, 8:46.69.

High jump: Brice Bledsoe, second, 5-10; Lincoln Taylor, fourth, 5-10.

Complete results for the girls at Covington were:

100-meter dash: Ruthie McReynolds, 15.70; Tirsah Miller, 16.18; Piper Hill, 17.68.

200-meter dash: Ruthie McReynolds, 33.50; Piper Hill, 39.05.

400-meter dash: Ruthie McReynolds, 1:17.15.

100-meter hurdles: Tirsah Miller, 22.30.

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (580) 395-2212 or email jjump@medfordpatriotstar.com

State Senate Kills Stitt-Backed Proposal for State Superintendent Selection Process

BY NURIA MARTINEZ-KEEL
Oklahoma Voice

OKLAHOMA CITY – A proposal that could make the state's top education office an appointee of the governor, rather than an elected position, has failed in the state Senate.

House Joint Resolution 1055, which would put the idea to a vote of the people, failed to receive a Senate committee hearing before a deadline last week, despite calls from Gov. Kevin Stitt for a state question on the matter.

"After hearing feedback from Oklahomans across the state on how our State Superintendent of Public Instruction should be selected, I chose not to advance House Joint Resolution 1055 this session," the resolution's author, Senate Majority Floor Leader Julie Daniels, R-Bartlesville, said.

"The people of the state of Oklahoma have made it clear that they prefer to keep the state superintendent an elected position."

The Governor's Office did not return a request for comment Tuesday.

Stitt, in his last year in office, has urged the Legislature for months to put a statewide question on the ballot that would ask voters whether to make the state superintendent a governor-appointed position. He said there's been "misalignment" between him and past state superintendents because their positions are separately elected.

Stitt had the rare opportunity to appoint someone to the post after former state Superintendent Ryan Walters resigned with 15 months left in his four-year term. The governor chose Lindel Fields for the role.

When appointing Fields,

Stitt made his first call for the office to become a permanent gubernatorial appointee. He renewed that call in his State of the State Address and again last week before signing a landmark reading bill into law.

"I think we need to take politics out of the education space, and that's why I'm a proponent to have the next governor appoint the education superintendent," Stitt said at the bill signing ceremony.

Not all Oklahomans share the governor's enthusiasm for the idea.

A recent poll of more than 1,100 state residents by the Oklahoma Center for Education Policy found 62 percent of respondents opposed making the state superintendent a governor-appointed position. Only 26 percent favored it, according to the poll by the University of Oklahoma-based policy

center.

A resolution to put the proposal on statewide ballots faced bipartisan opposition but still passed the state House 63-33 in March.

It was then assigned to the Senate Rules Committee but never received a hearing, despite the committee's leader, Daniels, being one of the resolution's authors. A deadline to advance through the committee stage came and went Thursday with no vote on HJR 1055, bringing the proposal to a dead end.

Legislative leaders initially said they were supportive of the state superintendent becoming an appointed role, as long as the House speaker and Senate president pro tem had the opportunity to appoint members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education.

State law allows the governor to appoint all members of the powerful state



NURIA MARTINEZ-KEEL / Oklahoma Voice

Gov. Kevin Stitt speaks at a bill signing ceremony at John W. Rex Charter Elementary in Oklahoma City on April 21.

board except for the elected superintendent. Lawmakers advanced House Bill 3327, a measure to expand the board with legislative appointees, in tandem with HJR 1055.

But by last week's deadline, HB 3327 had passed through the Senate Rules Committee while its fellow

resolution on the state superintendent had not. One is able to advance without the other.

The state superintendent office will appear on primary and General Election ballots this year. Nine candidates across two parties are running for the post.

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, April 23, 2026) 2t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRANT COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JESSIE L. MCCORMICK,
Deceased.

Case No. PB-2025-24

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION, APPROVAL OF ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND EXPENSES, APPROVAL OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S FEE AND DISCHARGE OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Notice is hereby given that Dwayne McCormick, the duly appointed and qualified Personal Representative of the Estate of Jessie L. McCormick, Deceased, has filed his Petition for Decree of Distribution, Approval of Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Expenses, Approval of Personal Representative's Fee and Discharge of Personal Representative. A hearing has been fixed by the Judge of the Court for the 1 day of June, 2026 at 3:00 p.m., in the Grant County District Courtroom located in Medford, Grant County, Oklahoma, and all persons interested in the Estate are notified to appear and show cause, if any they have, why the Account should not be settled and allowed, the Estate distributed, the Attorney's Fee, Costs, and Expenses approved, Personal Representatives' Fees approved and the Personal Representative discharged.

DATED this 20 day of April, 2026.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Todd R. Burlie, OBA #16148
1914 Lake Road
P.O. Box 1897
Ponca City, Ok 74602
(580) 762-4800
(580) 762-4181 Fax

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, April 23, 2026) 2t

Deer Creek-Lamont Public School Public Notice Notice of Intent to Destroy Special Education Records

Date of Notice: 4/20/26

Scheduled Destruction Date: June 19, 2026

Attention: Parents/Guardians, Former Students, and Eligible (Adult) Students

In accordance with district policy and federal regulations (IDEA), notice is hereby given that Deer Creek-Lamont intends to destroy confidential special education records for students who have not received services in this district for seven (7) years or more. This destruction cycle applies to students who graduated, moved, or exited special education services during or before the 2017-2018 school year.

While state law requires a minimum 5-year retention, Deer Creek-Lamont maintains these records for a period of seven years to ensure families have ample time to access documentation. After this period, the records are no longer deemed educationally necessary by the district and will be destroyed to protect student privacy.

These records may be useful or necessary for the student or parent for future purposes, including:

Applications for Social Security or Disability benefits.

Documentation for college accommodations or vocational programs.

Future medical or mental health history.

How to Request Records

If you wish to claim these records before they are destroyed, please submit a request by June 19, 2026.

Contact Office: High School Office

Phone: 580-388-4333

Email: krfischer@dcla.k12.ok.us

Pickup Address: 401 Harrison, Lamont, OK 74643

A valid photo ID is required to retrieve files. If the student is 18 years of age or older, the records must be requested by the student unless legal guardianship documentation is provided.

Note: The district will continue to maintain a permanent record of the student's name, contact information, attendance, and grades as required by law.

Legals can be emailed to
jjump@kcnonline.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, April 30, 2026) 2t

IMPORTANT NOTICE OKLAHOMA WHEAT COMMISSION

May 12, 2026—1:00 P.M.

Grant County Expo Center

412 Sixth Street

Pond Creek, OK 73766

The purpose of this meeting is to nominate three people, one of whom will be named by Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur to a 5-year term to fill the District 1 Oklahoma Wheat Commission board seat. The District is composed of Alfalfa, Garfield, Grant and Major counties.

All wheat producers within District 1 boundaries who are actively engaged in wheat production, have marketed wheat, and have paid a check-off fee and left that fee with the Commission for the current marketing year (June 1, 2025-May 31, 2026) are eligible to vote. It will be the responsibility of the producer to prove their eligibility to vote

by providing a dated grain elevator receipt including the producer's name and amount of wheat sold, and a driver's license or some other form of identification.

Candidates wishing to run in the election must be at least 25 years old, a resident of Oklahoma, engaged in growing wheat in their respective district in the state for at least five years and must derive a substantial portion of his/her income from growing wheat.

The Commission's election, which is open to the public, will commence at 12:00 noon with lunch and the voting will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. (All producers planning to vote should bring all documentation required and must be checked in at the polling booth by 1:00 p.m. when the voting process begins.) Lunch will be provided by the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association. For more information call 1-405-608-4350 or email info@okwheat.org



For more information,
Call: 405-608-4350
Email: info@okwheat.org

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, April 30, 2026) 1t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRANT COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of the Estate of
LAWRENCE DEAN PATTERSON, Deceased.

Case No. PB-2025-16

NOTICE OF HEARING RETURN OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Nelda Patterson, Personal Representative of the Estate of Lawrence Dean Patterson, Deceased, has returned and present for confirmation, and filed in said Court her Return of the sale of the following described real property of said Estate to wit: 24682 County Road 740, Jet, Oklahoma 73749, with a legal address of:

A tract of land located in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4 of Section One (1) Township Twenty-six (26) North, Range Nine (9) W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, with improve-

ments;

To Wings in Flight Outdoors, LLC, for a sum of \$15,965.00, and that May 11, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., in the court room of the Grant County Courthouse in Medford, Oklahoma, the matter has been set by the Court for hearing said Return, at which time any person interest in said estate may appear and file his exceptions in writing to said Return and contest the same, and are hereby referred to said Return for further particulars.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF April, 2026

HONORABLE JEFF CRITES

Judge of the District Court
Megan Hickman, OBA #30106
Riffel, Riffel & Benham, PLLC
3517 W. Owen K. Garriott, Suite One
Enid, OK 73703
580-234-8447/phone
Attorneys for Personal Representative

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, April 30, 2026) 1t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRANT COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of the Estate of
RONALD W. MILLER,
Deceased.

No. PB-2026-8

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FOR ORDER DETERMINING HEIRS, AND REQUESTING WAIVERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons interested in the estate of RONALD W. MILLER, deceased, that on the 21 day of April, 2026, JENNIFER MILLER-GREEN filed in the District Court of the County of Grant, state of Oklahoma, a petition praying for Letters of Administration to be issued to Jennifer Miller-Green upon the estate of RONALD W. MILLER, deceased, and that the heirs of RONALD W. MILLER be determined under the provisions of 58 O.S. Section 240, and requesting that the appointment of appraisers, and the filing in the District Court file of an inventory of the assets of this estate, be waived.

AND pursuant to an order of said District Court, the 15th day of May, 2026, at the hour of 10:30 a.m., in the District Courtroom, in the courthouse at Medford, Oklahoma, in said County of Grant, has been appointed as the time and place for hearing said Petition, when and where any person interested may appear and contest said petition as provided by law, or may assert his own rights to the administration and pray that Letters be issued to himself.

WITNESS my hand this 21 day of April, 2026.

JUDGE

Tim E. DeClerck, OBA# 10271
MITCHELL DeCLERCK
202 West Broadway
Enid, Oklahoma 73701-4018
(580) 234-5144
Attorneys for Petitioner

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, April 23, 2026) 2t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRANT COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of
the Estate of
ANN BEALL STUNTZ,
Deceased.

No. PB-2025-23

NOTICE OF HEARING ON FINAL ACCOUNT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that Bret B. Stuntz, the duly appointed and qualified Personal Representative of the Estate of Ann Beall Stuntz, Deceased, has filed in this Court the Final Account and report of the administration as such Personal Representative and the Petition for Determination of Heirship and for Distribution of Estate, and that Tuesday, the 12th day of May, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. in the Courtroom of the District Court in Medford, Grant County, Oklahoma has been duly appointed by the said Court for the final settlement of said account, and for hearing of the petition for distribution, and determination of heirship, at which time and place any persons interested may appear and file exceptions and show cause, if any they have, why said account should not be settled and allowed and the said Estate distributed and the Personal Representative discharged.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of April, 2026.

/s/ Jeff Crites
Judge

Ralph Harrison (OBA #3926)
Jared Harrison (OBA #21515)
Emily Stoner (OBA #31723)
Harrison & Mecklenburg, Inc.
202 North 6th Street, P.O. Box 658
Kingfisher, Oklahoma 73750
Attorneys for Personal Representative

KID SCOOP

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (580) 395-2212 or email jjump@medfordpatriotstar.com



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

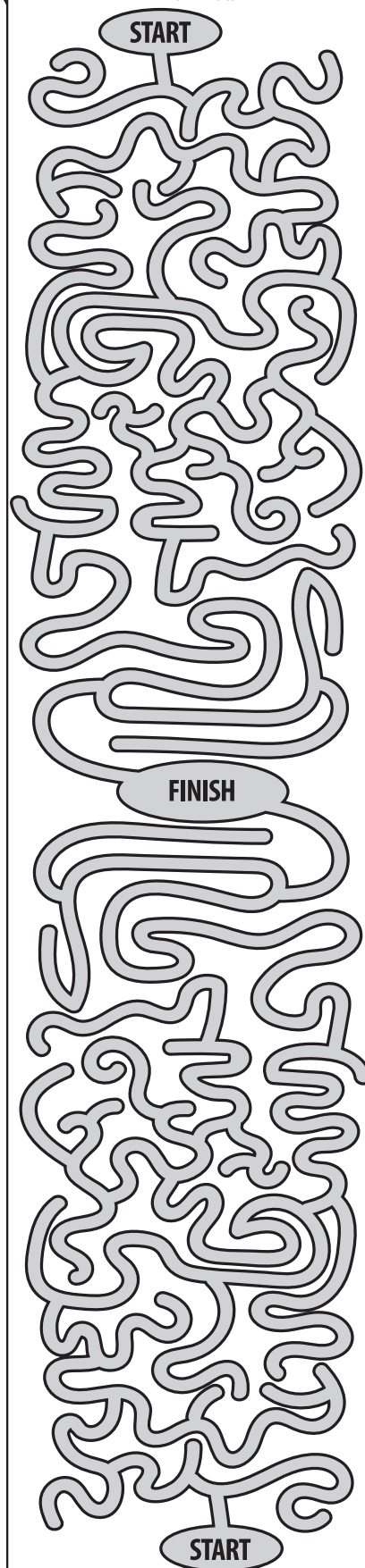
Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Kid Scoop Together

Double Maze

Race a friend to see who can reach the finish first!



Things You Can't Do Alone

There are plenty of things you can do all by yourself. You can write a story or draw a picture. You can do 20 push ups. And you can look for animal shapes in the clouds.

But there are a whole bunch of things that you really can't do by yourself. Look at all of the examples on this page. Can you think of more?



Knock, Knock... Knock! Knock! Knock? Knock?

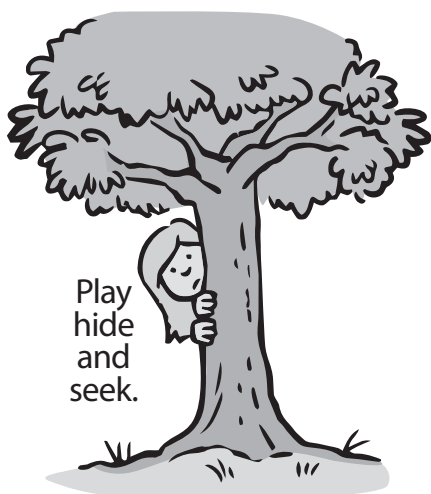
Tell a joke.



Play rock, paper, scissors.



Perform in a marching band.



Play hide and seek.



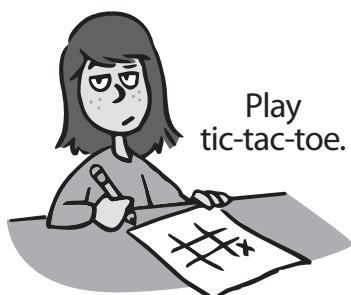
Play musical chairs.



Share a popsicle.



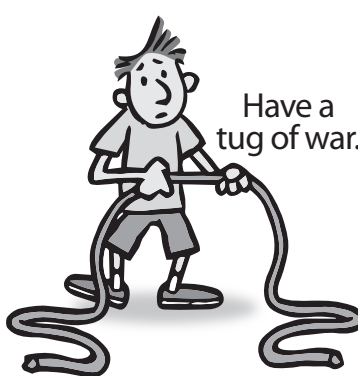
Run a relay race.



Play tic-tac-toe.



Have a staring contest.



Have a tug of war.



Play on a baseball team.



Have a snowball fight.

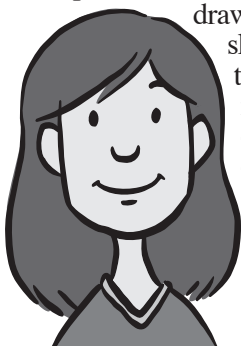


Ride a teeter-totter.

List at least three more things you can't do alone:

Help Wanted

Avery is decorating for her little sister's birthday party. She's doing a great job by herself, but she would appreciate your help. Color this picture and use your drawing skills to add more colorful decorations. Can you draw a birthday cake?



Extra! Extra! How Many People Does It Take?

Look through the newspaper and find an activity that needs more than one person. How many people does it need? Repeat with two more activities.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

It takes more than one person to get *Kid Scoop* to you.

Look carefully at this page. Can you find the names of two people who are part of the *Kid Scoop* team?

Look through this newspaper to find the names of other people who make this entire newspaper!

Double Double Word Search

- ALONE
- BAND
- BUNCH
- HIDE
- JOKE
- ONE
- PERSON
- PLAY
- RIDE
- ROCK
- RUN
- SEEK
- SHARE
- TEAM
- THINK
- YOURSELF

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

K G Y H T R N S V B
 I B U N C H U E A W
 L Q W S Y L B N C P
 E D I H B P D O U E
 T S M A E T L L P R
 H U E R O C K A K S
 I F L E S R U O Y O
 N K J O K E N D J N
 K L W V T C R I D E

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **APPRECIATE**

The word **appreciate** means to be thankful or grateful for something or someone.

I **appreciate** when my dad helps me with my homework.

Try to use the word **appreciate** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Working Together

Look through the newspaper and find some examples of people working together. Write a paragraph explaining why a person shouldn't do this type of work alone.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write an opinion supported by facts.



Why are crayons always welcome at parties?

ANSWER: They brighten the room and blend right in with guests.

Write On!

A Little "Me" Time

What are some things you like to do by yourself? Write about a few of them.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.

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NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (580) 395-2212 or email jjump@medfordpatriotstar.com

GRANT COUNTY COURT REPORT

Case Number	Filed On	Party	Case	Offense Or Cause
TR-2026-00189	04/27/2026	Anderson, Conner Balthazar Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Anderson, Conner Balthazar	Inattentive Driving While Using Cell Phone/ Electronic Device(Tr)
TR-2026-00190	04/27/2026	Bachman, David Dwayne Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Bachman, David Dwayne	Speeding 1-10 Over
TR-2026-00194	04/28/2026	Barwick, Robert Allen Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Barwick, Robert Allen	Failure To Wear Seat Belt
TR-2026-00191	04/27/2026	Cardenas Cruz, Samantha Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Cardenas Cruz, Samantha	Speeding 16-20 Over
FD-2026-00004	04/27/2026	Crocker, John Russell Jr Plaintiff	Crocker, John Russell Jr Vs. Early, Wendy Pearl	Divorce
FD-2026-00004	04/27/2026	Early, Wendy Pearl Defendant	Crocker, John Russell Jr Vs. Early, Wendy Pearl	Divorce
TR-2026-00188	04/27/2026	Heard, Justin R Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Heard, Justin R	Failure To Wear Seat Belt
CF-2026-00006	04/27/2026	Howe, Brett Anthony Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Howe, Brett Anthony	Driving A Motor Vehicle While Under The Influence Of Alcohol Second Offense In 10 Years (C2)
CS-2026-00019	04/28/2026	Jefferson Capital Systems Llc Plaintiff	Jefferson Capital Systems Llc Vs. Mcmartin, Ashley	Money Judgment Under \$10,000.00
CJ-2026-00007	04/27/2026	John Doe, Occupant Defendant	Rocket Mortgage, Llc Vs. Strait, Stuart Blaine Et Al	Money Judgment
CM-2026-00013	04/24/2026	Jones, Clifford Isaac Jr. Defendant Osw	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Jones, Clifford Isaac Jr.	Negligent Homicide
CS-2026-00019	04/28/2026	Mcmartin, Ashley Defendant	Jefferson Capital Systems Llc Vs. Mcmartin, Ashley	Money Judgment Under \$10,000.00
CJ-2026-00007	04/27/2026	Rocket Mortgage, Llc Plaintiff	Rocket Mortgage, Llc Vs. Strait, Stuart Blaine Et Al	Money Judgment
CV-2026-00006	04/29/2026	Rogers, Daniel C. Plaintiff	Rogers, Daniel C. Vs.	Lost Title - St Court Order
CM-2026-00014	04/28/2026	Rossi, Mitchel Randel Defendant Osw	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Rossi, Mitchel Randel	Allowing Domestic Animals To Run At Large

PUBLIC NOTICE GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

(Published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, April 30, 2026) 1t

MINUTES OF BOCC REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Grant County, Oklahoma (BOCC) held a regular meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 9:00 am. Notice of the Meeting, including agenda, was posted at both entrances of the Grant County Courthouse, Medford, OK, Friday, April 17, 2026, prior to 9:00 am. in accordance with Title 25, §301-314 O.S.

Stinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After roll call, a quorum was acknowledged. Present were Steve Stinson, Keith McClure, and Craig Fredrick. Also present were Rachele McCaleb as Secretary, Tallena Hart, and Penny Huff. Teleconferencing was enabled to comply with the Open Meetings Act. Out of the commissioners Stinson, Fredrick and McClure used their signature stamps and hand signed as well.

Steve Stinson said a prayer and McClure led the flag salute.

McCaleb acknowledged the agenda was properly posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Fredrick moved to approve Resolution 2026-42: Proclamation National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Grant County-April 19-25, 2026. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried. Tallena Hart, Assistant District Attorney, informed the Board this is the 45th year to recognize National Crime Victims' Rights. This year's theme is "Listen, Act, Advocate, Protect Victims, Serve Communities." This is a time to recognize Victim's Rights and recognize volunteers. REXANNE KRETCHMAR is Grant County's staff member who assists victims in Grant County. The Board and the Assistant District Attorney acknowledge this week and Grant County's commitment to victims' rights.

McClure moved to approve Transfer of Appropriations. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Blanket Purchase Orders. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve purchase orders and travel claims. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

2025-2026
AMB SVC-ST 2116 OKLAHOMA CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES 290.09.

Fair Improve-ST 3016 PRESTO-X PEST CONTROL 267.66.

General 1613 OSU/AGEC CTP 65.00; 2869 HAUGH, LORI 225.07; 2880 XEROX CORP 128.14; 3002 STANDLEY SYSTEMS LLC 55.91; 3141 RK BLACK INC. 50.40; 3142 RK BLACK INC. 134.73; 3143 RELX INC OBA LEXIS NEXIS 109.00; 3258 ACCO 42.00; 3334 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 20.62; 3338 TOPS N STRIPES INC 318.00.

Health 3004 GOTTSCH TERMITE & PEST CO. 85.00; 3021 OG&E 215.71; 3022 AT&T 102.08. Highway 3099 LITTLE BS TWO LLC 210.00; 3168 EARNHEART CRESCENT LLC 477.00; 3178 DIEMER CONSTRUCTION INC 2880.00; 3237 SOUTHERN TIRE MART LLC 3004.00; 3270 WARREN CAT INC 1213.16; 3333 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 25.62; 3381 FREDRICK, CRAIG 47.27; 3383 PIONEER TELEPHONE 122.77; SUPPLIES 3320 ASSOCIATED SUPPLY COMPANY, LLC 1478.78; 3365 MUNN SUPPLY 45.20.

Rur;;ll Fire-ST 1481 SPIRIT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS 6972.80; 1800 CULLIGAN OF ENID 12.00; 3067 MUNN SUPPLY 34.41; 3330 FECHNER PUMP & SUPPLY, INC 1951.44; 3380 K & K DIESEL LLC 4494.15; 3384 PIONEER TELEPHONE 64.19; 3404 SPIRIT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS 146.00; 3405 SPIRIT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS 1631.10.

SH Commissary 3032 CINTAS FAS LOCKBOX 102.85.

Sheriff-ST 3065 OK DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY 429.00.

SH FUNDING ASST GRANT 2324 MODERN MARKETING 800.84; 2516 SOUTHWESTERN STATIONERY 311.37; 3035 FARMERS GRAIN 132.06; 3036 AT&T MOBILITY 570.92; 3362 FOUR JS TIRE SERVICE 941 .40.

SH Svc Fee 913 GREAT SALT PLAINS HEALTH 20.00; 1508 CALDWELL HEALTH MART PHARMACY 38.71; 3030 ADVANCED WATER SOLUTIONS 11.25; 3031 BEN E. KEITH COMPANY 1554.64; 3034 CROSSROADS COUNTRY MARKET 555.72; 3037 KAY ELECTRIC CO-OP 63.00; 3038 KELLEY'S AUTO PARTS 56.45; 3040 XEROX CORP 172.44; 3173 CHARM-TEX 226.60; 3403 DIRECT TV 203.15.

Fredrick moved to approve minutes from 04.13.2026 BOCC Regular Meeting. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Stinson moved to approve Resolution 2026-41: Donation: Norman Neilson - \$500.00 (D3). Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Special Payroll: Devon Compton - OPEH&W Additional Life -Employee Portion - \$11.00. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Stinson moved to approve Storm Debris Cleanup Assistance - OCCEDB- (D3). McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Discussion on Southern Power Temporary Road Use Agreement - There is no permanent Road Use Agreement at this time. Will do a 60 day temporary agreement through May, 2026. The Temporary Agreement is for an advancement of \$50,000.00 for each, District 2, and District 1 for the first 60 days. At the end of this \$50,000.00 will come off the total payment.

Fredrick moved to acknowledge sale of county owned property to the City of Medford, by default of resale. Lot 6 Blk 70 of Rock Island Addition for \$200 and Lot 19-21 Blk 70 of Rock Island Addition for

\$500. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

County Clerk reviewed information for Benefit Fair scheduled for May 20, 2026. Information will be emailed to the elected officials, and they should pass this information on to the employees.

McClure stated 01 - hauling river gravel. Installing tubes for constituent to provide access. Normal grading and maintenance.

Fredrick stated 02 - they have finished obtaining chips for chip and seal projects: 2 miles into Lamont and Grady Road up to Highway 11. They are getting roads smoothed and hauling shale.

Stinson stated 03 - assessing damage from hail. 7 vehicles have windshield claims and ACCO has already been contacted. They will close the road at Clyde and Grant, 1 mile west at Grant to replace tube and lay rock, road will be closed for a couple of days.

No New Business:

At 9:36 a.m. Fredrick moved to adjourn. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

At 9:40am meeting came back into session to sign Southern Power Temporary Road Use Agreement. County Clerk noted agreement should be reviewed by ADA prior to signing. BOCC does not feel the temporary agreement needs to be reviewed as it is for the company to start hauling in supplies and noting funds are available for damages and recovery.

At 9:46 a.m. McClure moved to adjourn. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Approved this 27th day of April, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GRANT COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Steve Stinson, Chair
Craig A. Fredrick, - Member
Keith McClure - Vice Chair
Rachele D. McCaleb,
County Clerk
attest
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HELP WANTED

Help Wanted

The City of Harper is accepting applications for a Seasonal Public Works Employee. The position will be full-time, 7am-4pm, M-F, for the months of May through August, 2026. Applicants must be at least 17 years of age, and have a valid KS Driver's license. Primary responsibilities will include assisting with the parks, cemetery, water and wastewater maintenance (mowing, weed-eating, facility maintenance, etc). Pay dependent on qualifications. Applications can be found online, www.cityofharper.com or at City Hall 201 W. Main St. Harper, KS.

CHIEF OF POLICE – Position Opening

The City of Harper is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of Chief of Police due to the upcoming retirement of the current Chief at the end of the year. Requirements: A high school diploma or GED and a technical degree or some college credit in Criminal Justice or related field is required. Applicants should have a minimum of ten years of law enforcement experience, current KLETC certification (or ability to obtain), and valid driver's license. This is a working chief position, combining leadership, administrative responsibilities and active participation in patrol and law enforcement duties. The Harper Police Department consists of the Chief with two full-time officers, three part-time officers and two reserves. The successful candidate must be able to pass a physical exam and background check after an offer of employment has been made. Residency within the city limits is required within 6 months of employment. For a full job description please visit www.cityofharper.com

Salary/Benefits: Salary range for this position is \$58,500 - \$87,700 DOQ. Benefits include health, dental, vision and life insurance; KPERS retirement and 457(b) deferred compensation options with employer match; paid vacation, sick and funeral leave. Resumes should be addressed to City of Harper, Attn: City Administrator, 201 W. Main St. Harper, KS 67058 or submitted via email to tcooperrider@cityofharper.com. Please contact Tiffany Cooperrider at (620)896-2511 for any additional questions.
Position open until filled.

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NEWS/SPORTS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (580) 395-2212 or email jjump@medfordpatriotstar.com

COURT

• From Page 1

implicate the collective interests of Oklahoma insurance consumers.

“He cannot simply declare the public’s interest in private litigation and thereby intervene,” Mansinghani wrote of Drummond.

In response to Mansinghani’s argument that the Oklahoma Constitution vests authority over insurance matters solely to Oklahoma Insurance Department Commissioner Glen Mulready, Solicitor General Garry Gaskins, arguing on behalf of the Hurshes, was quick to point out that Drummond was not in conflict with Mulready in any way.

“Far from claiming the Attorney General is intruding on his prerogatives, the commissioner has invited his participation,” Gaskins said of a letter Mulready wrote on Jan. 29.

As his own roof claim case has moved through the legal system, retired Justice Watt, having embarked on a second-act career as senior counsel in the office of the attorney general, has been uniquely positioned to appreciate the wild and surprising swings of the State Farm roof saga.

Speaking in anticipation of Monday’s arguments, Watt expressed admiration for Drummond’s intervention and offered comments addressed to all of those who will, come November, face voters who have increasingly become aware of State Farm’s alleged scheme.

“It’s my hope that the elected officials in this state recognize the problem that exists in this area today, and that in the future they will take steps, whatever those may be, to solve this problem that affects thousands of our citizens,” Watt said.

They Did it Anyway – Twice

A tender man with a dry wit, Watt offers new Oklahoma acquaintances a tongue-in-cheek apology for having attended law school in Texas. In 1973, he relocated to Altus, the city that for a time would become his adopted home.

“Best move I ever made,” Watt said.

After 14 years of diverse work as an attorney, Watt ascended to the bench and served five years as a Jackson County district court judge. In 1992, after 15 months as general counsel to Governor David Walters, he was appointed to the Supreme Court. Watt sat on Oklahoma’s highest court for 25 years, with two consecutive two-year terms as chief justice.

To those who have followed the State Farm roof claim saga closely, Watt’s close encounter with the insurance behemoth will sound only too familiar.

Fifty years of coverage, Watt said, hundreds of thousands of dollars in premiums paid on every home he and his wife had lived in and cars as well, and older claims settled without a hitch. Nevertheless, State Farm balked when the Watts submitted a claim in late 2024 after discovering a sudden water leak from a recessed ceiling light in the living room of the house

in Edmond that the Watts thought of as their dream home.

Watt said a State Farm claim adjuster, Joe Barresi, quickly determined that the leak was the tip of an iceberg: recent hailstorms had inflicted unseen damage, and like many of the Watts’ neighbors, they needed a total roof replacement. Barresi took it to corporate but came back with bad news, Watt said. State Farm rejected the claim.

Two things would be remarkable about Watt’s tussle with State Farm, which would stretch over this claim and another resulting from additional sudden water damage that destroyed the hardwood flooring of their 2012-built home.

First, although Watt had never used his position in public service to escape so much as a speeding ticket, he knew that both his State Farm agent, Mike Teague, and Barresi were aware of who he was. Watt believed that Barresi had fought for him, and surely Barresi would have told his superiors at State Farm’s headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois, that they were denying the claim of a chief justice.

They did it anyway — twice.

Second, regarding both of Watt’s claims, State Farm called in a nationwide third-party adjuster, SeekNow. SeekNow adjusters overruled Barresi’s initial determination that the Watts’ home needed a new roof, and rejected as well the later claim over sudden water damage that profoundly buckled the home’s hardwood floors and rendered it treacherous and unlivable for Watt, 79, and his wife, Cathleen, 77.

In 2023, attorney Chip Merlin, of the Merlin Law Group, wrote a scathing critique of SeekNow after coming into possession of an internal SeekNow text memo. The message from manager Steve Wilson to adjusters noted that State Farm accounted for 50% of SeekNow’s business and that adjusters would be punished if their work on State Farm cases led to reinspections.

“To me, the message was clear,” Merlin wrote. “Make your opinions about damage lower or face getting reduced wages.”

It wasn’t just a plaintiff’s attorney who was complaining. Since 2023, policyholders have registered nine complaints against SeekNow with the Better Business Bureau.

In December 2025, a policyholder questioned the company’s ethics: “SeekNow lacks the integrity and expertise to document/report any insurance claims.”

In December 2024, a policyholder accused them of actionable wrongdoing: “It would appear SeekNow is in the pocket of the insurers and are accomplices in fraud.”

In August 2024, a policyholder offered stark advice: “If SeekNow is a company the insurance sends to inspect your roof...run.”

State Farm, Joe Barresi, and SeekNow did not respond to interview requests about the Watts’ claims.

Like Judge Linehan, Watt and his wife reached a breaking point. As Mon-

day’s oral arguments approached, Watt reflected on the decision they had made to lawyer up.

“I know how insurance works,” Watt said. “The Court wrote many opinions on insurance companies over the years, so I had enough knowledge of the insurance industry to know that I wasn’t being treated fairly. I was getting low-balled — and it just wasn’t right.”

You Will Get a Verdict Soon

Monday’s arguments, for the most part, followed the script anticipated in the briefs.

Mansinghani repeated his argument that the insurance commissioner held sole power over insurance law. Referring to Mulready’s Jan. 29 letter, Mansinghani suggested that the commissioner’s unequivocal power nevertheless halted at the ability to share his power with the AG.

“The separation of powers does not turn off and on if the commissioner and the AG happen to agree right now,” Mansinghani said.

This prompted Vice Chief-Justice Dana Kuehn, citing the AG’s sole statutory authority to bring RICO charges, to question what would happen if an insurer committed an act that the commissioner was not empowered to prosecute.

“Are insurance companies immune because the insurance commissioner can’t do anything against an insurance company?” Kuehn said.

The justices peppered both Mansinghani and Gaskins with questions about alternate remedies to the decision they might render, about conflicts between statutes that conflicted with a Constitution that also mandated following written law, and about whether State Farm’s malfeasance might be better prosecuted as criminal fraud rather than civil fraud.

Special Justice James Huber questioned Gaskins as to why Billy Hursh, who attended Monday’s arguments, would want to have his case burdened by the AG’s intervention.

“Why did the Hurshes want to expose themselves?” Huber said.

Gaskins replied that gaining access to the now-infamous State Farm documents would make the case more efficient. Gaskins also spoke to a more fundamental motive for the AG’s intervention.

“The people of the state of Oklahoma have an interest in protecting the state from what may be one of the largest frauds in this state’s history,” Gaskins said.

For his part, Hursh, after the arguments, gently questioned Huber’s assumption that the case was simple.

“All respect in the world to the justice, I don’t think it’s simple,” Hursh said. “This was a widespread, pervasive scheme that, as far as we know, affected thousands of people. I don’t think it’s just a bad-faith negotiation on a contract. We thought it was, but it seems like it’s much bigger than that.”

Toward the end of the argument, Justice James Edmondson, quiet to that point, waxed eloquent in reply to

Mansinghani’s final minutes of speaking.

Edmondson spoke of Oklahomans who may even now live in fear of leaking roofs, and he also expressed sympathy for State Farm employees who may be concerned about being dragged before either civil or criminal tribunals.

“I wouldn’t want to be in either position,” Edmondson said. “I don’t know who we are going to rely on to determine whether there has been actionable conduct, but I think it is an act of service that [the AG] owes to this state to plumb the intricacies of this issue.”

Edmondson told Mansinghani and the crowd of dozens that at least some portion of the State Farm roof saga would be resolved quickly.

“I’m sure you will get a verdict soon,” Edmondson said.

Attorney General Would Reload

Oklahoma Watch obtained a binder of documents from a one-time State Farm whistleblower, including a 1981 file titled “Claim Superintendents’ Manual Memo #77.” A section of the memo called Suits Against the Company advised evaluating which liability cases could be removed from district to federal court and said that pendency — that is, a lawsuit that remains pending, or undecided — could be a useful legal strategy.

“It is not always desirable to have a legal question decided,” the State Farm manual read.

Justice Watt’s case against State Farm has been removed to federal court, despite having sued Teague, his agent, an Oklahoma resident, alongside the company. Watt was miffed that there were many others in the same boat.

“I was surprised to learn that all of these cases were being removed to federal court because there was no jurisdictional reason in my mind, no constitutional issues, it’s purely state issues,” Watt said. “It should have stayed in state court. It rightly needs to be back in state court. That’s where all of these cases need to be litigated.”

After Monday’s argument, the Supreme Court is tasked with deciding whether the attorney general can intervene in how State Farm cases will be litigated. Gaskins’ brief made clear that denying the intervention would merely be a speed bump; the attorney general would reload.

“Denying intervention would not prevent the Attorney General from enforcing consumer-protection laws; it would merely force a separate lawsuit raising identical OCPA and ORICO claims over the same alleged conduct,” Gaskins wrote.

Watt, it’s fair to say, hopes that as the sitting justices deliberate the Hursh case, they will bear in mind cases like his own, and, more important, the cases of many Oklahomans who may not even know that they can fight back against the insurance giant’s alleged scheme.

“State Farm wasn’t being a good neighbor to them, and they sure weren’t being a good neighbor to us,” Watt said.

Lady Panthers Compete at Sunset Hills

STAFF REPORT

The Pond Creek-Hunter girl’s golfers competed at the Regional tournament April 20 at Sunset Hills Golf Course in Guymon.

Hallie Jones was the top individual for the Lady Panthers as she shot 105 and placed 12th. Olivia Daft shot 108 and placed 15th, while Violet Cargo shot 112 and placed 21st. Chloe Williams shot 124 and placed 31st, and Izzy Weber shot 128 and placed 32nd. There were 37 golfers who competed.

The Lady Panthers shot 449 as a team and placed sixth. Cordell won the tournament with team total of 382.

PC-H Closes Out Softball Season

STAFF REPORT

The Pond Creek-Hunter slow-pitch softball team lost both games of a doubleheader at Oklahoma Bible Academy in district play last Wednesday.

The Lady Panthers lost the first game 14-3, then lost a low-scoring game to close it out, 3-0.

The first game was tied 1-1 after two innings before the Lady Trojans broke it open. They scored three runs in the third, four in the fourth and four in the fifth before the Lady Panthers scored again.

For the game, PC-H had five hits and six errors while OBA had 15 hits and one error.

The Lady Panthers’ first run came in the first inning after Hadlee Merriott’s single to right field scored Alana Banks.

PC-H then added two runs in the fifth, when Jaylen Rockwell singled up the middle to score Payton Miller, then Banks grounded into a fielder’s choice off which Andre Ortiz scored.

Banks, Ortiz and Rockwell each went 1-for-2 to lead the Lady Panthers at the plate. Ortiz had a double and she and Banks each had one run batted in.

Summer Holden gave up 10 earned runs off 15 hits in six innings with six

walks.

In the second game, the Lady Trojans scored once in the second and twice in the third. They had eight hits for the game, while the Lady Panthers had seven, but they couldn’t get the clutch hits needed with runners on base. PC-H had two errors in the second game while OBA had one.

In the first inning, the Lady Panthers got two runners on base with one out, with Destiny Ortiz and Merriott each reaching via a single. However, the Lady Trojans got a double play to end the threat.

PC-H got three runners on base in the third with two outs, with Banks reaching on an error and Ortiz and Merriott each getting a hit. But Ortiz was then picked off at second base.

The Lady Panthers got a runner on base with one out in the seventh after Holden’s single to left field, but they couldn’t come through with another hit.

Ortiz and Merriott each went 2-for-3 at the plate. Holden pitched again and gave up three runs off eight hits in six innings of work with three walks and two strikeouts.

The Lady Panthers finished with a 9-15 overall record.

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