

When the government's boot is on your throat, whether it is a left boot or a right boot is of no consequence.

- Gary Lloyd

Patriot Star

THE POND CREEK HERALD & THE WAKITA HERALD

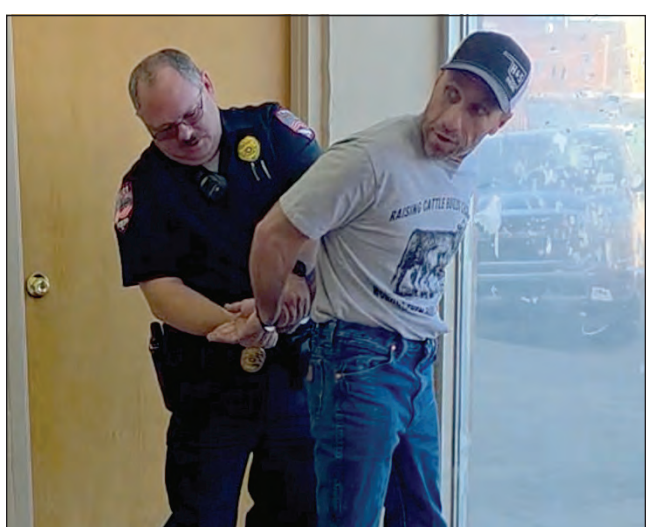
& GRANT COUNTY JOURNAL

Standing for freedom and liberty while guiding residents to truth in Medford and Grant County

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VIDEO SCREENSHOT

Medford Police Chief Jim Shepherd, left, releases longtime Medford resident Justin Blubaugh, left, from handcuffs after a brief detainment Monday night at the Meet the City Manager event held at the Medford Civic Center.

MPD Detains Resident During Event

BY JASON JUMP
Editor

Residents across the United States have recently become more and more active in governmental affairs. With that uptick in citizen participation, there have also been a number of arrests made at public meetings with locals dealing with everything from COVID-19 shutdowns, "woke" ideology being taught in classrooms and most recently the rise of hyper scale data centers.

The city of Medford can now take its place alongside others as longtime Medford resident Justin Blubaugh, 50, was escorted out of Monday night's

Meet the City Manager event hosted by Medford City Manager Linda Garcia at the Medford Civic Center in handcuffs.

Blubaugh said in a telephone conversation with the *Medford Patriot-Star* Monday night that he entered the civic center and listened as the sign-in process was explained to someone in front of him at the entrance to the event. He then proceeded to walk past the sign-in desk even though he was asked to sign in and found a seat to wait for the event to start. The 49-year Medford resident said eventually he was approached by Medford Police Chief Jim Shepherd and was asked if he had signed in for the meeting.

Blubaugh said he told the police chief that he did not sign in, and then Shepherd told him he needed to sign in. Blubaugh made the police chief aware of his intentions not to sign the sheet, and that's when he was told he needed to leave.

Blubaugh told the police chief it was a "public meeting" and he was not going to leave. He was then asked to stand up and was told he was going to be escorted out of the building.

"Then he put the handcuffs on me," Blubaugh said.

Blubaugh said he was escorted to the front entrance of the civic center

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Residents Address Concerns at Medford's Inaugural Event

BY JASON JUMP
Editor

Medford hosted a Meet the City Manager event Monday night, which was deemed a success by city officials.

It was the first of what Medford City Manager Linda Garcia hopes will be an ongoing forum for residents to communicate directly with city officials.

"I'm very proud of the fact that we had a town hall meeting to give people a chance to have their voices heard," she said by phone on Tuesday morning. "It was an opportunity to give the people a chance to say what they wanted to say - to feel like they were heard without going directly through their council members."

"I feel that it was very successful. I'm glad we did it."

Garcia opened the event with a statement where she said the town hall format was important, because it gave residents an opportunity not normally presented to them during more formal city council meetings.

She gave a brief introduction and told attendees she was still "learning the ropes and meeting new people and getting to know residents" after just being on the job for six months.

"I want feedback," Garcia said. "I'm hoping that everybody comes with the idea that they can give feedback on what's important to them, and that we can use that both for us as staff and four our council members to move forward, because we are public servants right."

"We're here to serve you, and we're here to try to help you guide the city in the best way possible."

The city manager said it

was a time for residents to bring ideas, concerns and complaints and give the staff and city council an opportunity to review those matters.

The event's moderator, Rich Donaldson, asked everyone that was going to speak be respectful and kind. He said applause was welcome, but throwing chairs would be frowned upon.

"Understand that words matter to everybody," he said. "The whole idea here is democracy in action. This is a chance for you to be heard by local government."

Local Speakers

Penny Huff shared her ongoing concerns with the sole-source mandate the city of Medford has for ambulance service through Ordinance 466, and the county's new 522 Ambulance District, which takes effect on July 1, with Miller EMS providing countywide service to the district.

"The city of Medford is choosing to impede the ambulance service with their 466 ordinance, requiring Medford residents to have no other option but Medford Ambulance (Service)," she said. "The city needs to get over whatever gripe they have with Miller EMS."

"We need to work together and remove the unconstitutional 466 ordinance."

Huff said by state statute a sole-source provision can only be utilized for "a stretcher van or an ambulance transport."

The Medford resident said the city can keep their license and service to provide transports. She said the city could keep its sales tax in place to help pay for the service.

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MEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Medford Elementary School's Nicole Johnson, left, accepts her Masonic Lodge Teacher of Today certificate from MES Principal Heather Gottsch. Johnson was also the Teacher of the Year for the elementary school.

MES Names Johnson Teacher of the Year

Second-Grade Teacher Also Receives Masonic Lodge Teacher of Today Recognition

BY FAITH COULTAS
Staff Writer

Nicole Johnson has been named Teacher of the Year for the Medford Elementary School.

Johnson was recognized at the end-of-year assembly this past May. This was an award voted on by her fellow colleagues within the district and with the award, she was also given a stipend from the district.

Johnson began teaching at MES as a second-grade teacher three years ago, and this is her second time being named TOTY in those three years.

Johnson is a veteran teacher, coming from Texas and unexpectedly finding a job within the Medford school district shortly after moving to town to be closer to her grandkids.

"I moved here in 2022 because of my grandkids. I taught in Texas for 20 years, and I had vowed to never teach again because of a lack of administrative support in Texas, but then I came here and I just kept getting a tug from God to go back to teaching," she said. "The job at Medford literally just fell in my lap."

The Medford School district has been very grateful to Johnson and incredibly thankful that she happened to be in the right place at the right time.

"I feel really blessed that we were able to kind of snag her up in the late summer that she just so happened to be in our school district," MPS Superintendent Tyler Locke said. "She brings that veteran teaching experience to the table and she's super compassionate with the kids and also has

very high expectations and fantastic classroom management. She is really really a fantastic teacher."

She has dedicated these last few years of her life to being the best she can be for her students and colleagues at Medford even during the tough year the elementary school had this past year after the loss of her colleague Tiffani Gallagher.

"A way to describe her is steady and reliable," Medford Elementary School Principal Heather Gottsch said about Johnson and her dedication to the students. "This is some random information, but she hasn't missed a day of school in three years, so she's there day in and day out giving her all for our kids."

See **JOHNSON** / Page 6

Medford Police Addresses Known Facts Related to Death of an Individual

STAFF REPORT

Medford Police have determined that a body was not dumped at the Medford Golf Course after an investigation.

"The Medford Oklahoma Police Department recently received requests for information regard-

ing 'a body dumped at the golf course,'" the department said in a statement released to the *Medford Patriot-Star* on Monday.

The police determined no body was "dumped" at the local golf course nor did "the incident" occur at the golf course.

The release said the Medford Ambulance Service responded to a call, but the location of the call was not given. The call resulted in the treatment and transport of a patient, who later died.

"In accordance with state law, the deceased's body was turned

over to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner," the statement season.

According to evidence gathered by the OCME the deceased suffered injuries prior to their death.

"The Medford Police Department investigated the matter and

was able to determine that the injuries most probably occurred outside the jurisdiction of the MPD," the statement said. "The MPD requested the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation take over the matter and transferred all relevant records to the OSBI."

NEWS

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

Pond Creek-Hunter TSA Team Advances to Nationals

PRESS RELEASE

Pond Creek-Hunter High School Technology Student Association (TSA) – the professional organization for STEM – went to the State TSA Conference in April, where members participated in competitions for Drones, Dragsters and Fashion Design and Technology.

The PC-H team of Kennedy McReynolds, Addy Coons, Averie Polasek and Kyra Russell, for the Fashion Design and Technology contest, placed in the top five finalists out of 38 teams from across the state.

The Fashion Design and Technology competition includes creating a complete outfit for the yearly theme, creating a pattern, sewing the outfit, creating and writing about the storyline, a minimum of one 3D printed item to be incorporated into the outfit, and a portfolio with numerous details. If placed in the top 12, the teams had to model and narrate the outfit and participate in an interview. Five teams were chosen to advance to Nationals in Washington, D.C. The PC-H team placed fifth.

Nationals will be held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md. on June 22-26.

“This premier event allows participants to showcase



POND CREEK-HUNTER SCHOOLS

PC-H's Fashion Design and Technology TSA team placed fifth at State and now heads to Nationals.

their talents and skills while competing against the best from across the country,” PC-H TSA Advisor Christina Taylor said. “Beyond the excitement of competitions, attendees can connect with leading industry professionals, engage in networking opportunities, and build lasting relationships with peers from other states.

“It’s more than a conference. It’s an unforgettable experience of growth, achievement and inspiration.”

CORRECTION

Fireworks are only permitted on the 4th of July at the Medford Airport. Fireworks are not permitted at the city’s annual 4th Fest as reported in last week’s story. We apologize for the error in reporting.

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OBITUARY

CONNIE SUE ARENS

Connie Sue (Biby) Arens received her heavenly welcome on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, surrounded by her family. She was born March 5, 1942, to Neil and Juanita Biby.

When she was young, she lived on the family farm near Hawley and attended Gore Public School. After her daddy’s unexpected passing, her mom married Perry Watkins. He became a devoted step-father to her and her sister, Sandra. They moved to Medford and she attended Medford Public Schools.



Connie married Robert (Bob) Arens and together had two loving children Michael (Mike) and Lisa. After they divorced, she continued to raise both her kids in Medford. While in Medford, she worked as an office manager at the John Deere tractor dealership. After Lisa graduated, they moved to Enid and she worked at Long’s John Deere and later at Northcutt Chevrolet.

After raising her children, she raised her granddaughter,

Jamie Arens. She and Jamie moved to Texas to be near her daughter, Lisa and her son, Brent. Her career was never important to her as she focused on and enjoyed being a loving mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. Later in life, she moved in with Lisa, her son-in-law, Don, and granddaughter Ellie.

Connie loved Jesus and was a strong example of His unconditional love and kindness. She loved her family and poured into all of them.

Connie was preceded in death by her parents; Neil Biby and Juanita Watkins; her step-father, Perry Watkins; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Leonard and Leatha Arens; grandparents, aunts, uncles and niece, Lea Nicole (Nikki) Sanderson.

Connie leaves behind her children Michael (Radene) and Lisa (Don Gibson); grandchildren: Jamie (Arens) Tarlton, Brent Arens (Ashton), Kaitlyn (Gibson) (TJ Paresi) and Clay Gibson; great-grandchildren: Sophia Tarlton (Sam Tarkington), Alex Tarlton, Perry Tarlton and Ellie Arens; great-great grandchildren; sister, Sandra (Danny Sims); nieces; great nieces; and sister in law, Patty (Joe Hill).

A memorial will be held on Friday, June 26 at 2 p.m. at the Bethal Hawley Baptist Church, located at 24078 County Road 800, Nash, OK 73761.

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OPINION

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

Mostly About Nothing

By Cecil Hoar

When you folks out there get this missive, we will have seen the elimination of a lot of Republicans running for about everything in the world and a scant few Democrats chasing the winners. Needless to say, there are going to be a lot more Republican losers than downcast Democrats at least in this state. Growing up here, few Republicans had any chance of

winning anything, as since almost statehood, Democrats were the only successful politicians in the state.

The “Dust Bowl” and “Great Depression” finished off Republican chances as Franklin Roosevelt stormed through American history leading the “Dems” until Henry Bellmon brought “the G.O.P.” town driven along by the “Richard

Nixon Affect.” Henry was later to be a bit discredited as he was a big supporter of two unfavorable Nixon decisions of turning the Panama Canal over to the Panamanians and introducing the world to Communist China while fighting its cohorts in Vietnam. “Nam” fell along with the president.

This election season just might be as nation-changing as that one

back in ’73 which ushered in “Anti-establishment,” “Free Love & Nickle Beer,” and near east-south American problems. which probably remained with us until Ronald Reagan saved the day. That earlier era created our “Iranian Crisis” which has befuddled Democratic and Republican administrations ever since.

We “Baby Boomers” have

overseen most all of it — good and bad — and history may record that ancients, Joe Biden and Donald Trump, didn’t do much to make those situations for we Americans, Eurasians and Near Easterners much better than before. Surely, this election season will change the equation. (That is if younger generations care to take it on.)

Factual, Satirical, Humorous Comments From a Deranged Sooner Fan

By Jack LaFay

Musings and More — the Official Scoop

It has been a wild and wacky week across our great nation. A scandal-ridden Democratic Socialist candidate with a Nazi tattoo wins the Maine Primary and faces incumbent Senator Susan Collins in the November midterm election. Boomer Sooner believes Graham Platner, the Nazi candidate, enjoys intimidating folks and has a partiality towards harassing women.

Ole Graham started bad-mouthing Senator Collins two minutes after winning the primary. His ex-political director professed that Mr. Platner shouldn’t be a Senator because of his problematic past. Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL) said he would support replacing Senate candidate Graham Plattner on the ballot in Maine. That speaks volumes when an Illinois politician wants a Democrat replaced on the ballot in Maine because of character flaws.

This is going to be a high-stakes race in Maine with large amounts of campaign moolah being coughed up because Maine could hold the balance of power in the Senate.

A bigger-than-Dallas UFC fight is scheduled for June 14 on the South lawn of the White House. This is a massive undertaking with a 4000-seat arena, and our brave military will be seated in the arena. Illegal aliens plan to watch the event at Ole China Joe Biden’s house in Delaware and be

serenaded by the famous Washington Drag Queen Troupe, which gained notoriety during the Dapper Delaware Dandy’s brief stay at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

This sports event is being held to commemorate America’s 250th birthday, along with the Trumpsters 80th. The sneaky Dems have retained every unemployed lawyer in the DC area to determine a means for preventing this fight.

Our darling Dems squealed with joy when Ole Joe Biden held a Gay Pride Jamboree Picnic on the White House lawn featuring transgender dude strippers and drag queens displaying their fake and exaggerated femininity, but saying no to fisticuffs on display. The motto of our Democratic best buds, “Transgender Strippers Hip Hip Hooray! But a UFC Fight No Way!”

Afghanistan and Ukraine are never-ending wars, and Iran has a never-ending ceasefire. It appears the Trumpsters’ patience is wearing thin because on Wednesday night, our military bombed the holy hell out of Iranian military installations. This result led to the alleged leaders of Iran pleading no more bombs. Thursday afternoon the media reported Iran had agreed to the demands of the USA, and the deal would be signed this weekend in Europe, which led to our military calling off further military action. Late Thursday, the Iranian brain trust claimed that no agreement had

been reached.

In simple language, we cannot trust the present Iranian leadership, keep bombing their military installations till hell freezes over. Those dudes have been killing Americans for 50 years, and it is payback time. The buzz around Washington D.C. Friday morning claimed the Trumpster had sealed the deal and Iran would never obtain nuclear weapons and become a peaceful nation; however there is one minor snafu — the Iranian religious leaders demand that transgender goats be allowed in their country. This item is still under discussion and may curtail the peace agreement.

The merry month of May found Boomer Sooner and his better half making several trips to Grant County, Oklahoma, which is the heartbeat of agriculture in Oklahoma. From our observations, Medford and Pond Creek are tidy, clean towns with not much junk on display.

There are many communities in Kansas of this size that are bona fide trash heaps. We spent some time driving around metropolitan Jefferson and concluded that it should be nicknamed the Johnson Grass Capital of Oklahoma.

It is sad to see the demise of Main Street Rural America. Back in Boomer’s teenage years, Main Street was thriving in Medford and Pond Creek. I admire folks who have a family business in rural America because

it is a day-to-day survival. Big box stores led by Walmart aren’t helping Main Street Rural America.

When we visited the Pond Creek Cemetery on Mother’s Day, it resembled a battlefield courtesy of recent storms, and there was no way it would be presentable for Memorial Day visitors, but lo and behold! The Orange Cowpoke, his wife, and daughter, Kim, along with his granddaughter, plus numerous volunteers, got the cemetery in tip-top shape. A job well done!

A Sad and Tragic Story

Brad Maple lived in California and was having a tough time with life. He was sick of the world, catastrophic diseases, Russia, and Chinese tension and violence in our communities.

Brad drove his car into the garage and sealed every doorway and window. He got back in his car, rolled down the windows, selected his favorite radio station, and started the car to a slow idle.

Two days later, a worried neighbor peered through the garage window and saw him in the car. She notified emergency services and broke into the garage, pulling Brad from the car, a little sip of water, and surprisingly, he was in perfect condition, but his Tesla had a dead battery. Brad is a proud registered Democrat.

Have a great week, Grant County.

We the People

By Tom Horn

I was watching Newsmax this Monday morning and saw some leftwing news rag saying Father Time was catching up to Trump as he turns 80 years old. I couldn’t help but laugh.

I stayed up late Sunday night watching Trump’s big birthday celebration with a large crowd at the White House and UFC Championship fighting that the President loves. I stayed up till 11:30 and when I saw there was at least one more fight, I went to bed. I know the party went on past midnight here, and past 1 a.m. in Washington, and Trump wasn’t missing a minute of it.

When I got up around 6 a.m., I turned on Newsmax and saw the President had reached a peace agreement with Iran and was already halfway to the French Alps to attend the G7 Summit. Father Time? I couldn’t keep up with him, and I’m nowhere near 80.

As far as that peace agreement with Iran goes, nothing has been signed yet, but in a few days when it is signed, Iran is supposed to

immediately re-open the Strait of Hormuz and Trump will lift his blockade of Iranian ships. With word of the agreement, oil prices fell like a rock and the stock market is taking off.

Some news organizations are predicting that Iran is simply taking a “tactical pause.” That is most likely true, but what they’re not considering is the possibility that Trump is not a clueless moron, and is also taking a tactical pause to get the price of oil down where it was and the stock market continues to soar past the midterm elections. After that, Trump is in his final two years of his term with nothing to lose.

Speaking of the election, I’m writing this before the primary elections, and you’re reading it after. By now, I’ll be just glad to get it over with. I’m tired of getting a mailbox full of politician cards every day, and now, getting regular texts and phone calls from candidates. It’s not going to end, but at least it will slack off a little.

Judy and I just got back from a 9

day camping trip to Arcadia Lake. This is the third year we’ve done this, and love it there. I’ve never had any luck fishing from the bank there, though the girls love catching little sunfish at the enclosed fishing dock across the lake.

The big attraction to me is the peace and quiet. The big attraction to the Missus is the Sams and Walmart and gobs of other shops and restaurants just three miles away.

To get to our campground, you get off I-35 at SE 2nd Street in Edmond and drive east about three miles. Something we never paid attention to is SE 2nd is also Highway 66. All three years we never went further east than our campground till the last day of our camping trip this year.

Off and on our granddaughters Tynlee and Ariel camped with us. Ariel was with us most of the time and she was there Friday night when Valerie showed up to spend the night and take Ariel to a softball tournament in Cushing the next day. Their route to Cushing

took them east from our campground.

Shortly after they left Saturday, Valerie called her mom saying there’s a whole bunch of stuff going on just three miles east of us. She mentioned a big barn, and a “Chicken Shack” with lots of people around it, so we jumped in the truck and went to check it all out.

The first place we came upon was “Pops.” It’s this big convenience store with a huge neon pop bottle in front of it. We continued on, and as we entered the tiny town of Arcadia, we came upon the legendary round barn we see on the news regularly. We stopped briefly and checked it out since it’s free, then continued on, and there it was, the Chicken Shack.

It’s actually a few businesses grouped together in weathered old buildings. There’s a small but very expensive steak house on one end. Next is a unique shave ice business. In front there’s a tiny window to one side where you order your snowcone. What you get is a snow cone full of plain ice. On the other

side is a line of about 20 spigots that dispense different flavors of snow cones. On the back side of the building there’s two rows of 20 flavors.

Also on the west side in the back, there’s about 100 feet or so of an old west ghost town with 2 stories. It looks pretty cool, but it’s fenced off.

Then on the east side is the sprawling “Chicken Shack.” When you enter one end, there’s a full service bar and a pool table. As you continue back through the rustic building you enter the restaurant. If you’ve ever eaten at Eischen’s in Okarche, it’s like that but on steroids. We will be visiting there regularly next year, and probably when we’re just spending a weekend in the city.

By the way, Ariel’s team, the Western Okies took runner-up in the tournament, and 12-year-old Ariel, after making multiple outs as catcher and short-stop, including making a double play was awarded the “Defensive MVP” of the tournament.

A Mom’s Musings

By Stephanie Jump, Co-Owner M⁹ Publishing

This past weekend, I took our youngest and some of her friends to celebrate her birthday. Along with her older sister, we got to spend the day perusing “vintage” stores, book stores, and of course, coffee shops. As they were browsing around a certain large bookstore, I decided to grab some coffee while I waited on another shopping excursion to come to a close before we moved on to the next store.

I got my ridiculously hot coffee and while I was wandering around looking for them, I ended up in the children’s sections among the trains, toys and of course, books. My mind immediately went back to the time when all the kids were little and we would spend so much time in this bookstore. Whether it was playing with the trains or looking at the many, many books, we had quite a few moments spent there. I found

myself a little sad I no longer have those little ones to look at picture books with. Mine are all into all sorts of books but sadly to say no more children’s section for us. My kids have always been readers. Well most of them, the middle one is now that she isn’t forced to read. The oldest who used to tear through the library and get all the books Roberta had that would get him the highest AR score, now will not pick up a book to

read. I guess fourth grade might have been his peak.

Now I see all the pictures from different libraries that we cover and smile because I know there are someone else’s kids who are going through that exact same phase of excitement we did so many years ago.

As the weather gets hotter, there isn’t anything better than a good book. Now if I only had time to read.

**HAVE AN OPINION, QUESTION OR CONCERN?
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EMAIL EDITOR JASON JUMP AT JJUMP@MEDFORDPATRIOTSTAR.COM

NEWS

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

EVENT

• From Page 3

“But quit playing with people’s lives,” Huff said. “I feel like that’s a warning for all of us. We’ve got to be careful.”

Huff also said the city needs to provide more transparency in their discussions, decisions and finances.

She also asked Garcia how many calls were answered for the \$74,000 that was paid to MedOps’ temporary staffing service in late 2025 and early 2026.

Garcia told Huff that the event was not “intended to be a question and answer” time even though the event was advertised on Facebook encouraging residents to “bring: complaints, concerns, questions, ideas solutions.”

The city manager said she made it clear in her opening remarks what the format would be for the evening. She said the moderator made “a mistake” and said questions were encouraged.

“That was a mistake and, you know, an accident on his part,” Garcia said by phone on Tuesday morning.

Chad Smith, a lifelong resident, addressed the understanding that Medford has faced economic challenges over the last several years, and he even wondered if there were answers to his questions, but he said they were questions that needed to be asked out loud.

He asked why it had taken Garcia six months for her to introduce herself to the community at large. He said “many” local business owners had never even met her.

He also wanted to know why the council would not listen to residents when it came to the city’s 466 ordinance.

Smith wanted to know why Dollar General didn’t have to mow its own grass.

“Seems like everyone else in town has to,” he said. “I feel like there should be some guidelines for that.”

Smith said he had even taken it upon himself to mow the property out of “pity.”

He said it is very “sad” to see the community’s decline, but Smith recognized it was not “necessarily anyone in particular’s fault.”

Smith addressed several city ventures including the grocery store, the Palmer Loft, farm ground the city rented out and numerous lots. He said that is a lot of missed property tax that the residents of Medford have to make up for in the long run, putting the city “in direct competition with the people they are intended to serve.”

“What is the plan,” he asked. “Are we going to wake up some day and realize the city owns the whole town?”

He said a comment was made at a recent city meeting about needing a fresh set of eyes on the operation of the city’s grocery store.

“I’m beginning to wonder if we don’t need a fresh set of eyes on the council,” Smith. “I feel like the people of Medford are trying to speak, and you guys are not listening.”

Rachel Woodson shared concerns about having to pick up trash that blows into her yard from a home that burned and the former nursing home facility.

“It’s not my responsibility to have to pick up somebody else’s trash,” she said.

Woodson also said she shouldn’t have to pay the city of Medford to “register my dogs.”

“I shouldn’t have to pay you to have an animal,” she said. “I think that’s kind of a

little bit ridiculous.”

One resident said she would like to ask Garcia about code enforcement “or the lack thereof,” but that was going to be hard to do if the city manager wasn’t going to respond to questions.

She said she has sent “numerous” messages that have went unanswered.

“So is there a good way for you to answer questions if I have them,” she asked.

Garcia said she could leave messages with her or come into the office. The resident said she has made trips to city hall and “you’ve walked right around and wouldn’t say a word to me.”

“I would like to know if there is code enforcement or who is (carrying out) code enforcement? Do we have it,” the resident asked.

Garcia reminded her that it wasn’t a question and answer session.

“Okay, but I’m just saying, like, you won’t speak to me any other way,” she said. “Or you haven’t.”

After some back and forth between the two, the city manager and resident agreed to meet on Tuesday morning.

Dana Cox said she thank Garcia for doing a good job turning things around in the city after seeing the city going downhill for the last 14 years. She also asked if there was a code enforcement officer and animal control within the city.

Scott McCaleb addressed his concerns about saltwater hauler blocking traffic at the city’s grocery store. He said it was also blocking customers from accessing a local food vendor that was set up in the parking lot. McCaleb said there were also numerous kids in the area.

“The guy driving the truck was an idiot,” he said. “Why are we pulling water from that location?”

He said there were a number of locations that could be utilized.

Garcia said the city did look at other locations, but the trucking company said due to the “size of their rigs” they were going to have a difficult time making use of other sites.

McCaleb turned his attention to the 522 Ambulance District, saying he didn’t understand the thought process from the city.

“I’m grateful for Medford’s ambulance service,” he said. “but to provide care that Miller (EMS) can offer...that shouldn’t even be something that we should be talking about, if they’re able to provide a lot better care for the older people like myself or the younger people.”

The veteran said he didn’t serve his country to “come back to the United States and get told what I can use and what I can’t use on medical service, especially if I know what has the better options for my health and everybody else, residents’ health in Medford.”

City Council’s Thoughts

The *Patriot-Star* reached out to every member of the Medford City Council to get feedback on Monday’s event.

Councilwoman Debbie Kretchmar said, in a message, she thought the meeting was “well received and appreciated.”

“Most people were respectful,” she said.

Councilwoman Shari England said, in a message, she was “encouraged” with how the event went after some much negativity was seen and heard prior to Monday’s meeting.

“I was encouraged that it remained respectful and orderly overall,” she said.



JASON JUMP / Patriot-Star

Medford City Manager Linda Garcia, right, and Meet the City Manager event moderator Rich Donaldson, left, talk before the start of the event hosted by the city of Medford on Monday night at the Medford Civic Center. Medford residents were given three minutes to state their concerns with the city and the city council during the meeting. There was some confusion as to whether or not questions were going to be entertained by Garcia as some speakers were expecting some back-and-forth during the town hall-style meeting.

“While I would have appreciated some inaccurate statements being addressed for the sake of clarity, I believe the meeting still served an important purpose by allowing people to be heard.”

Councilwoman Mandy Sinor said she was “confused about the purpose of the meeting.”

“Personally, I was looking forward to a constructive forum where residents could voice their concerns and receive feedback in a question-and-answer format,” she said via message.

“After looking back at the announcement, I do see that it stated residents could ask questions and voice concerns.”

“To be fair, it did not explicitly state that answers or responses would be given during the meeting I guess.”

Sinor said the way the meeting was handled may have left some residents feeling “unheard.”

“Several people told me afterward that they did not see much value in speaking

if there would be no discussion, feedback or response to what was shared.”

The city council member said there are always going to be things to “work through and improve.”

“At the very least, Medford appears to be making an effort to create opportunities for citizens to share their input, and I hope future meetings continue to evolved into productive conversations between residents and city leadership.”

Sinor did say that Mon-

day’s meeting should “never be viewed as a replacement for citizen involvement in city council meetings.”

“Hearing from residents helps ensure that council members remember who elected us, who we serve and who should ultimately hold us accountable,” she said. “Public participation is an important part of good, local government.”

Mayor Gary Bowen and Vice-Mayor Steve Zemen did not respond to request for comments.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

(Published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, June 18, 2026) 11

BUDGET HEARING

The Town of Wakita and Wakita Utilities Authority will hold a Budget Hearing at 7:00 pm on June 3, 2026 in the Town Clerk’s Office, 11716 Main, Wakita, OK. All citizens are encouraged to attend and submit their input into the 2026-2027 Budgets. Copies of the proposed budgets are available at the Wakita Town office. Below is a tentative summary of the 2026-2027 budgets: The budgets will be discussed for approval at the July 1, 2026 meeting in the Town Clerk’s Office at 7:00 PM.

Town of Wakita General Fund Budget For The Year Ended 2027

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY 2027	
Sales tax	53000
Franchise tax	10000
Shared taxes	24000
Fire Run Revenue	0
Other revenues	2,200
Fire Grant	4700
Fire Donations	0
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	93900
OPERATING EXPENSES	
General government	80000
Fire department	20000
Street department	36000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	136000
REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-42100
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	
Transfers-in (out)	
REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	-42100

Wakita Utilities Authority Utility Fund Budget For The Year Ended June 2027

UTILITY FUND BUDGET FY2027	
OPERATING REVENUES	
Sewer revenues	35000
Trash revenues	25000
Water revenues	84000
Gas revenues	94000
Penalties	1500
Grant	0
Utility fees	8000
Other revenues	9000
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	256,500
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Administration department	105000
Sewer department	24000
Trash department	25000
Water department	85000
Gas department	125000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	364,000
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	-107,500
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	
Interest income	
Interest expense	1000
Trustee fees	0
Grants	0
TOTAL NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	0
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE OPERATING TRANSFERS	-106,500
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN (OUT)	
NET INCOME	-106,500

NEWS

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

GRANT COUNTY COURT REPORT

Case Number	Date	Party	Case	Offense Or Cause
TR-2026-00263	06/17/2026	Barboza, Edgar Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Barboza, Edgar	Speeding 21-25 Over
TR-2026-00258	06/16/2026	Biby, Jered Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Biby, Jered	Failure To Stop At Stop Sign
TR-2026-00260	06/17/2026	Campbell, Lurena D Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Campbell, Lurena D	Oper M/V On Which All Taxes Due State Are Not Paid
TR-2026-00256	06/16/2026	Garcia Ramirez, Armando G Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Garcia Ramirez, Armando G	Operating Vehicle Without Current License Plates
TR-2026-00259	06/16/2026	Roberts, Lee N Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Roberts, Lee N	Speeding 1-10 Over
TR-2026-00261	06/17/2026	Salinas, Clint Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Salinas, Clint	Speeding 11-15 Over
TR-2026-00262	06/17/2026	Sanchez Columbie, Adrian Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Sanchez Columbie, Adrian	Speeding 21-25 Over
TR-2026-00255	06/16/2026	Springer, Makayla R Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Springer, Makayla R	Failure To Comply With Compulsory Ins. Law
Tr-2026-00257	06/16/2026	Williams, Xavier Iv Defendant	State Of Oklahoma Vs. Williams, Xavier Iv	Speeding 26-30 Over

PUBLIC NOTICE GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

(Published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, June 18, 2026) 1f

MINUTES OF BOCC MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Grant County, Oklahoma (BOCC) held a regular meeting on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 9:00 am. Notice of the Meeting, including agenda, was posted at both entrances of the Grant County Courthouse, Medford, OK, Friday, May 8, 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 Rachelle McCaleb as Secretary and Donnie Head. 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 Transfer of Appropriations. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Blanket Purchase Orders. Fredrick 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
ASSR REV FEE 3883 XEROX CORP 120.55.

EMS 522-ST 3517 HARMON'S ELECTRIC INC 5813.88; 3591 COMDATA INC 318.55; 3656 LEO HERNADEZ MOWING SERVICE 200.00.

Fair Improve-ST 3694 CULLIGAN OF ENID 72.00; 3914 CITY OF POND CREEK 1012.34; 3918 SUMMIT UTILITIES 133.32.

General 2370 VERIZON WIRELESS 41.29; 3101 SLATER MECHANICAL 475.75; 3250 BANK OF AMERICA 690.00; 3335 BANK OF AMERICA 1967.99; 3557 BANK OF AMERICA 332.00; 3560 BANK OF AMERICA 15.99; 3671 KANOKLA 285.95; 3684 BANK OF AMERICA 35.85; 3695 AT&T 53.06; 3696 AT&T 53.06; 3702 TM CONSULTING INC. 1038.00; 3726 RELX INC OBA LEXIS NEXIS 109.00; 3791 REDLANDS OFFICE SOLUTIONS LLC 264.61; 3828 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 112.21; 3874 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 20.19; 3876 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 96.72; 3882 ADVANCED WATER SOLUTIONS 7.65; 3895 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 8.99; 3896 BANK OF AMERICA 36.00; 3899 STAR LUMBER 78.91; 3902 JENKINS & PRICE 165.63; 3916 CITY OF MEDFORD 279.75; 3919 SUMMIT UTILITIES 292.16.

Health 3898 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 172.55; 3507 ROBERT MANDEVILL 115.00; 3565 SUMMIT UTILITIES 327.33; 3645 STANDLEY SYSTEMS LLC 198.97.

Highway 3424 ANTHONY FARMERS COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR CO 510.64; 3425 FARMERS GRAIN 18466.58; 3426 KELLEY'S AUTO PARTS 517.72; 3427 MUNN SUPPLY 52.50; 3429 SEELY, ASHLEY SH FUNDING ASST GRANT 3267 INTEGRIS BASS OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE 135.00; 3414 INTEGRIS BASS OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE 50.00; 3539 INTEGRIS BASS OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE 65.00; 3564 DAVISON FUELS & OIL LLC 3187.58; 3797 AT&T MOBILITY 570.72; 3888 THE SIGN SHACK 696.00; 3910 WOODS CO ENHANCED 911 2500.00; 3913 ROCIC 500.00; 3935 TIMECLOCK PLUS LLC 981.60.

SH Svc Fee 3394 GREAT SALT PLAINS HEAL TH 60.00; 3794 CROSSROADS COUNTRY MARKET 50.77; 3795 KELLEY'S AUTO PARTS 39.79; 3796 XEROX CORP 166.59; 3798 ADVANCED WATER SOLUTIONS 58.65; 3925 INTEGRIS BASS OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE 50.00.

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

McClure moved to approve minutes from the 05.26.2026 and 06.01.2026 BOCC Regular Meetings. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Officer's Monthly Report for May, 2026 (County Clerk, District Attorney, Election Board, Court Clerk, County Treasurer, County Sheriff, County Assessor, Health Department) - All Subject to Audit. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Stinson moved to approve Court Clerk Records Management & Preservation Monthly Report- May, 2026 Reconciled Balance \$15,613.69. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Regular Payroll for Officers/ Employees for May, 2026 for disbursement in June, 2026. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Statutory Travel for Elect-

ed Officials for May, 2026 for disbursement in June, 2026. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Monthly Mortgage Tax & Certification Fee for May, 2026 for disbursement in June, 2026 - \$230.00. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Allocation of Alcoholic Beverage Tax for May, 2026 for disbursement in June, 2026 - \$14,803.31. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Allocation of Motor Vehicle Tax for May, 2026 for disbursement in June, 2026 - \$1,785.65. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to Acknowledge Jail Report May, 2026. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

• Fredrick moved to Acknowledge Resolution 2026-93-County Budgeting Services LL- Buddy Carrol FY26-27. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Resolution 2026-97- ODOT Insurance Verification FY 26-27. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Resolution 2026-98 -Interlocal Agreement Canadian County Sheriff Dept. and Grant County Sheriff Dept. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Resolution 2026-99 -AC-CO-SIF Workman's Comp Annual Renewal FY 26-27. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Resolution 2026-121 -Stop signs on County roads -No action taken

Fredrick moved to approve Resolution 2026-122: Surplus - Radio Harrison Momentum (s/n ending: A0176) -Sheriff Dept. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Resolution 2026-123: Disposal -Radio Harrison Momentum (s/n ending: A0176) - Sheriff Dept. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Resolution 2026-124: Surplus -Freon Reclaim/ Recy (sin: 6159) -D2. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve appointment of 1st Deputy -Devon Compton -Assessor's Office. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Bank of America P-Card -May, 2026 - \$3,503.46. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Notice to Bidder Bid # 2026-02 Six Month Materials Bid for July 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Utility Relocation Agreement - Project No. J2-9862(04) - D1. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

McClure moved to approve Utility Relocation Affidavit J2-9862(04) - D1. Stinson seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Stinson moved to approve MKEC Engineering Proposal for bridge protection project - D3. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Fredrick moved to approve Invoice Settlement Agreement to Lamont Fire Dept. - Annual alarm monitoring for FY 24-25 to be paid FY 25-26 - \$400.00. McClure seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Clerk's office will reach out to Tecta Roofing regarding windows leaking in Courthouse.

McClure stated D1 - grinding tree limbs for cities with local agreements. Working on a culvert on Major Road east of CR 1000 this week. Spraying, mowing, grading, and business as usual. Commissioner McClure also mowed the old Health Dept. property.

Fredrick stated D2 - mowing and grading. Finishing chip project on CR 960 and 2 miles east on Ellis Road.

Stinson stated D3 - working on projects on Highway 60. Laying rock and gravel. Will mow courthouse this week.

No new business to discuss.
At 10:31 a.m. McClure moved to adjourn. Fredrick seconded. Stinson - aye; McClure - aye; Fredrick - aye; Motion carried.

Approved this 15th day of June, 2026.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GRANT COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Steve Stinson, Chair
Craig A. Fredrick, - Member
Keith McClure - Vice Chair
Rachelle D. McCaleb,
County Clerk
attest
SEAL

CLASSIFIEDS

STORAGE UNITS

Kretchmar Storage, LLC
Storage units available for rent in Medford.
15 x 10, 10 x 10, 5 x 10.
Located at 603 Hillcrest Dr.

HELP WANTED

Want to make a difference in a child's life?
Big Five Community Services is hiring for the following positions:
Early Head Start Teacher-Medford
Substitute Teachers- All Big Five Locations
EXCELLENT BENEFITS. APPLY ONLINE
at www.bigfive.org
Resumes not accepted without completed application.
EOE/AA

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, June 11, 2026) 2t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRANT COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF RANDY LYNN ALEXANDER, DECEASED.

PB-2026-6

ALIAS NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All creditors having claims against Randy Lynn Alexander, deceased, are required to present the same, with a description of all security interests and other collateral (if any) held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to the named personal representative, Lana Patrice Alexander, at the office of HADWIGER & JUNGMAN, PLLC 120 S. Grand, P.O. Box 306, Cherokee, Oklahoma, 73728, attorneys for said personal representative on or before the following presentment date: August 5, 2026, or the same will be forever barred.

Dated this 1st day of June, 2026.

HADWIGER & JUNGMAN, PLLC

Attorneys for Personal Representative

By:

Kyle B. Hadwiger, OBA#11329

Marcus A. Jungman, OBA#19138

120 S. Grand, P.O. Box 306

Cherokee, OK 73728

(580) 596-3591

hjlaw@hjkolaw.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Medford Patriot-Star on Thursday, June 18, 2026) 1t

All persons having an indebtedness or claim against the City of Medford, Oklahoma, The Medford Public Works Authority or The Medford Economic Development Authority are hereby notified that a claim, purchase order, or contract must be recorded in the Office of the City Clerk on or before June 30, 2026, covering all debts now unpaid and incurred during the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 or said account shall be void and forever barred.

Samantha Grinstead

City Clerk/Treasurer

URGENT HELP NEEDED

Currently only 6.46 percent of residents in Grant County are paying for local news and sports coverage. If you want your local newspaper to survive without raising prices we must have your financial support!



Legals can be emailed to sjump@kcnonline.com

NEWS

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

MEDFORD

• From Page 1

where the two had a conversation, which was caught on camera and obtained by the *Medford Patriot-Star*, as people continued to enter the building.

Shepherd can be heard on the video telling Blubaugh that the city wanted attendees to sign in, and he again confirmed that Blubaugh had no intentions of signing the paper.

"I'm basing this on what happened tonight. I'm not basing it on anything else," the police chief said. "I saw you walk past the person who told you you had to sign in."

"But my problem is they made the request and you are refusing their requests, so what gives you the right to stay in that meeting?"

Blubaugh said it is a "public building."

"I pay taxes to maintain this building, pay your salary, pay Linda's salary, to keep the lights on in here, to pay the water bill," the Medford resident said. "You can't deny me service to a public building."

Blubaugh acknowledged that he could be denied if he was "committing a crime."

"I have not committed a crime," the resident said.

Shepherd then told Blubaugh, "at this point, I'm going to cut you loose." However, the stipulation was that Blubaugh was not to speak during the meeting or he was going to be escorted out of the building because at that point it would be "disrupting a public meeting under state law, which is a crime," according to the police chief.

"State law doesn't trump the Constitution Jim," Blubaugh said. "Plain and simple. I have the freedom of speech right to say whatever I want to say in there."

"I can call you a m— f—, I can call Linda a m— f—. I can call anybody in there a m— f— if I feel like it."

Shepherd agreed with Blubaugh's assessment, but he said if he disrupted the meeting by speaking without signing in he would

be ousted.

An unidentified person asked if Shepherd would arrest anyone on that basis.

"If I'm asked to — sure," the police chief said.

Shepherd quoted an Oklahoma state statute which says, "It is unlawful for any person, alone or in concert with others and without authorization, to willfully disturb, interfere or disrupt state business or the business of any political subdivision, which includes publicly posted meetings, or any agency operations or any employee, agent, official or representative of the state or political subdivision."

The statute then defines what disturb, interfere or disrupt means saying, "any conduct that is violent, threatening, abusive, obscene, or that jeopardizes the safety of self or others."

Blubaugh asked specifically what was going to happen if "I do say something."

"Then we'll be right back where we are, but you will go to jail," Shepherd said.

The police chief took the handcuffs off of Blubaugh, and the resident returned to the meeting without further incident.

Blubaugh said the events that unfolded reminded him of "Nazi behavior."

"It didn't use to be this way," the local resident said. "I don't respect any of the authorities — quote authorities — in this town, because this has just kind of been an evolving process."

"And here we are now."

The longtime resident said he can see why people don't want to move to Medford or why it is a struggle to get businesses in town.

"Because it's tyrannical behavior, in my opinion," Blubaugh said. "And, it didn't used to be that way."

City's Response

Garcia said the sign-in process is a normal procedure for city meetings.

"I would like everyone to continue to sign in," the city manager said by phone on Tuesday morning. "That's for safety. That's for record keeping."

"But if someone doesn't

want to sign in, then they don't have to come in."

Garcia said she has not looked into whether or not the city of Medford can legally require residents to sign a piece of paper to attend a meeting. She said she's only been in Oklahoma for a "few years" and she doesn't have "an in-depth knowledge of all the state statutes."

"So, right off the top of my head, I don't know if there's a state statute, and I don't know if we have a written policy (regarding the sign-in process)," Garcia said. "I've just rolled with that right."

Garcia said she wants residents to be aware of what the rules are, but it is up to them to follow the rules. The city manager said that now the issue has been raised by Blubaugh's insistence on not signing in as requested by the city an attorney will have to be brought into the situation. "Once something is in question, you need to make sure that you're on solid ground," Garcia said.

The city manager said she didn't want to see the city overstep, but at the same time she did not feel that asking residents to sign in to attend a meeting was a governmental overstep.

"I'm not going to change it unless it automatically, you know, smacks of something wrong," she said.

Garcia said the matter will be looked into, because the "status quo isn't always the right way to continue."

Council's Response

Councilwoman Shari England said the city has protocols in place to "ensure order, fairness and accountability for everyone involved."

"Respect for the process is not optional," she said via a message.

England also said the size of a community does not matter when it comes to these issues.

Councilwomen Debbie Kretchmar and Mandy Sinor both declined to address Blubaugh's detention.

"I did not witness it," Kretchmar said via a

message. "Hearsay causes a lot of problems and hard feelings."

The *Patriot-Star* reached out to Mayor Gary Bowen and Vice-Mayor Steve Zeman, but both council members did not return the request for comment prior to publication.

Tyranny Has to Stop

Blubaugh said it is time for change in Medford, and that change starts with the residents.

"People need to get more involved," he said. "Anytime any of this starts or when they notice it, they need to bring it to the attention of everybody immediately, and start going to the

city council meetings. Hold them (council members) accountable for their actions."

The Medford resident said tongue-in-cheek he would like to see residents show up with pitchforks in hand.

"This tyrannical behavior has got to stop," Blubaugh said. "Don't trample the Constitution."

He said unless local residents "get up in arms" about what has been going on with the city council over the last several months nothing will change.

"Demand new city council members, because I think that's the only way this is going to change," he said.

Blubaugh said he feels like there is a grassroots

movement that is starting to gather some steam in Medford. He said there have been some meetings where some of these ideas have been discussed. He also said he feels like there is growing interest in people wanting to be part of the solution as it relates to running for office.

Ultimately for Blubaugh, he wants people to know their rights and stand up for them, because every time someone makes the decision to cower or look the other way those freedoms continue to slowly slip away.

"We're going to wake up (one day) and we're going to have zero rights left," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BID

(First published in the *Medford Patriot-Star* on Thursday, June 11, 2026) 2t
NOTICE TO BIDDER

Bid #2026-02

SIX MONTH MATERIAL BID

July 1, 2026 TO December 31, 2026

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of O.S. Title 60 § 633, 1971, SEALED BIDS will be received for the following materials:

ASPHALT, MILLINGS, MASTIC CRACK SEALANT, EMULSIONS, RE-JUVENATOR, FLY ASH OILS, BRIDGE NAILS, CLIPS, BEAMS, STRUCTURAL STEEL, REBAR, GUARDRAILS, END WINGS, CHAIRS, BRIDGE PLANKS, PIPE PILING, HEAVY WALL PILING, INTERLOCKING SHEET PILING, PRE-FAB BRIDGE PANELS, GRADER BLADES, BONDED FABRIC, POLYETHYLENE AND POLYPROPYLENE CULVERT PIPE, CORRUGATED METAL CULVERT PIPE ARCHED, STEEL CULVERT PIPE, FULL CIRCLE STEEL PIPE CULVERT, METAL PIPE ARCHED CORRUGATED CULVERT, LUMBER, ROCK, & CONCRETE.

Sealed bids will be received by the Grant County Clerk's Office until 3:30 p.m., Friday, June 26th 2026 @3:30pm

at 112 E Guthrie, Room 102, Medford, OK, 73759 and will be opened on Wednesday, July 1st 2026 at 9:30 a.m. during the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Bids must specify the unit rate at which delivery thereon may be had by the County, when and as needed by the County, and in quantities and specifications as ordered by the BOCC.

The BOCC reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The bidders must submit bid on the official proposal forms furnished as follows: Invitation to Bid, Terms & Conditions, Affidavit of Contracts & Payments, Affidavit for Filing with Competitive Bid, AND W-9 forms, must be signed and notarized (if applicable), with the bid or the bid will be rejected.

The bid shall be clearly marked "SIX MONTH MATERIALS BID # 2026-02".

Approved this 8th day of June, 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

GRANT COUNTY, OKLAHOMA /s/ Steve Stinson, Chairman

/s/ Keith McClure, Vice-Chairman /s/ Craig A Fredrick, Member /s/ Rachelle D McCaleb, County Clerk

JOHNSON

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"This year she really had to step up and cover both second-grade classes — our other second-grade teacher had been diagnosed with stage four cancer and passed away in March, so Nichole really stepped up and took on the role of leading that other class as well until we had a long term sub in place and even once we had that long term sub she kind of mentored and helped her out."

"She steps up in every way she can whether there are circumstances that require it or not, she really gives it her all to our kids."

The loss of Gallagher impacted the whole district in various ways, but Johnson wanted to make sure the students especially had all the support they needed. She wanted to give them the stability they needed in a time of uncertainty. Johnson stepped up and did what she could to lead the students and help them continue on their path of success despite losing their teacher, even while she herself was dealing with the loss of a close friend and colleague.

"After Tiffani, my co-teacher, passed away it was a lot, and I couldn't watch those kids drown because they didn't have someone consistent, so I stepped in and started helping them and the substitutes

and whoever needed me," Johnson said.

Johnson has been devoted to teaching for over 20 years both in Texas and now in Medford, doing everything she can to ensure the success of her students and fellow colleagues and being a sounding board for those

who need it. She has been a substitute and taught various grades over the years from three- and three-year-olds in Pre-K to being a long-term sub for troubled students in an alternative school.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Read more online at medfordpatriotstar.com.



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