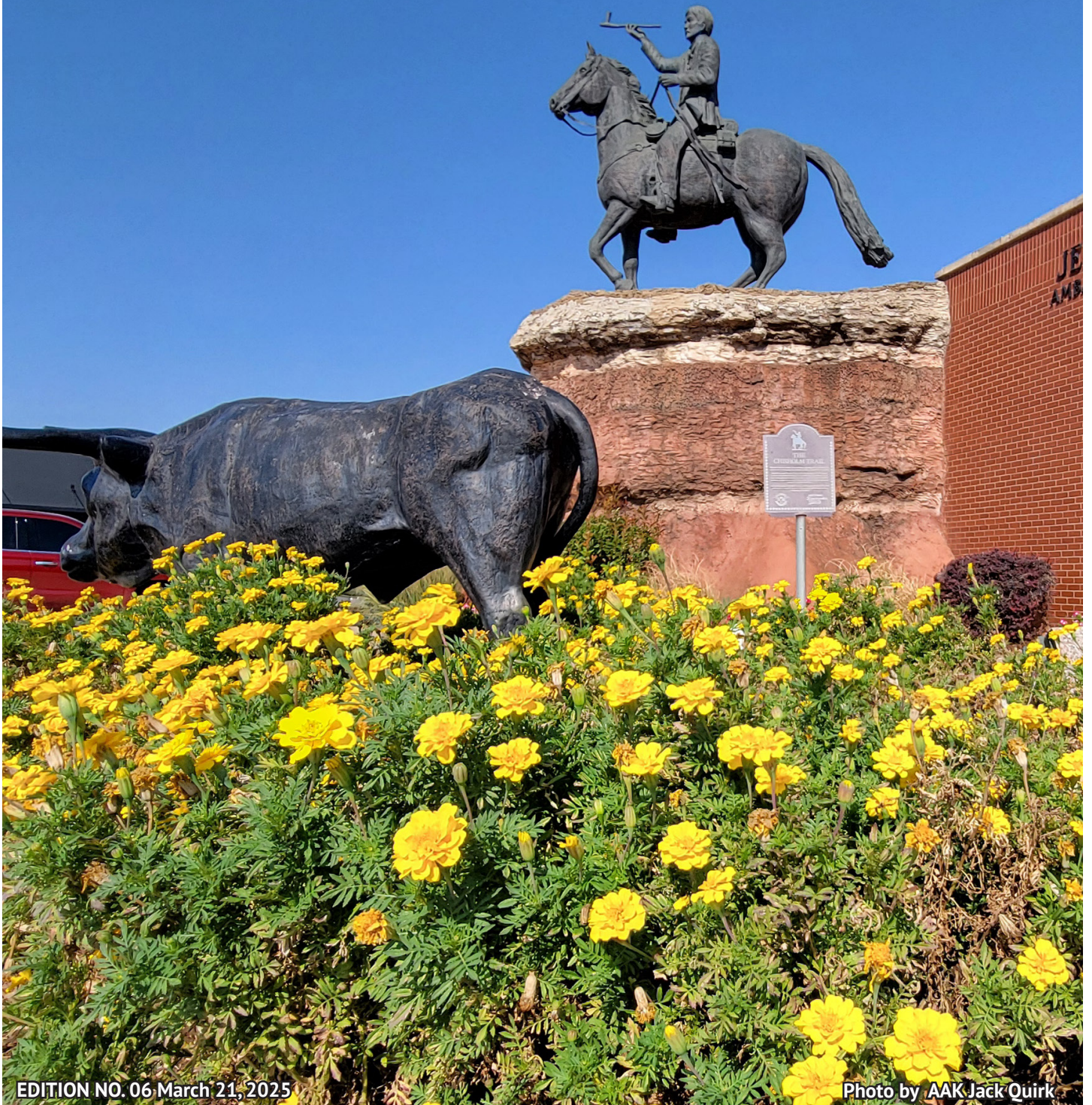


# THE KINGFISHER POST



EDITION NO. 06 March 21, 2025

Photo by AAK Jack Quirk

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Pictured from left to right: Dana Golbek, Nancy Teders, LaRita Sipe, Debby Jorgenson, Nellie Sanders (guest speaker), Sandy Kramer, Florene Tipton, and Kathy Kadavy. Not pictured: Deborah Maehs Information and photo provided by Deborah Maehs.

## Kingfisher County Retired Association

# MARCH 2025 KCREA MEETING

The Kingfisher County Retired Educators Association group met on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Kingfisher Memorial Library, with eight members and one guest present for the meeting. Oklahoma Secretary of Education, Nellie Tayloe Sanders, shared that she has an “extra heart for education” due to being dyslexic, as she is a visual thinker and verbal processor.

Sanders stated that the generation coming up is different due to the emphasis on technology, and the way these students learn may differ from the past. There is a tremendous need for these students to learn AI (artificial intelligence) skills so that the United States can remain competitive in the world arena. She also supports apprenticeships in industry, where “hands-on” learning can take place.

She conducted a listening session where participants were able to provide input and feedback regarding the following topics: Certified teacher shortages in Oklahoma, curriculum materials, school security, cell phones in schools, and teacher morale. KCREA Secretary, Kathy Kadavy, stated that many children are in survival mode, so free breakfast and lunch

programs are crucial for student success, along with school counselors.

Regarding other businesses, Treasurer Dana Golbek reported the current balances in the regular account as well as the CD which is currently paying 3% interest.

Membership Chairperson LaRita Sipe stated that she will be mailing out letters to schools to distribute to those teachers who will be retiring at the end of the current school year. LaRita also reported that the county Fine Arts contest will be held during the first week in April. Volunteers will be needed to help serve as judges for poetry.

The KCREA scholarship was discussed but no action was taken at the meeting. Members felt that it was necessary to provide only one scholarship per year due to financial concerns for the future.

The next KCREA meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Kingfisher Memorial Library with Leigh Ann Taylor, NBC Vice-President, as a guest speaker regarding the topic of bank fraud and scams against seniors.

## PATSY "PAT" LEE LEEDY OBITUARY

Patsy (Pat) Lee Leedy was born September 5, 1935, in Whittier, California to Harry and Dorrys (Bordelon) McPheeters. She returned home to her Lord and Savior on March 15, 2025, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Pat grew up in Houston, TX with her parents and two sisters, Barbara Ann and Nikki. While working at a department store, Pat's co-worker kindly asked her to write to her brother who was away at war.

After months of writing back and forth, Norm returned home to meet Pat for the first time in person. Norm and Pat wed on January 2, 1955. Together they had three children, Harry (Button), Julie, and Ron. Throughout the years Norm and Pat moved briefly to a few places, yet ultimately landed in Oklahoma City, OK. After 10 years in Oklahoma City, they moved their family to Kingfisher.

In 1981 Pat and a friend opened The Flower Garden. Over the years Pat became sole owner of The Flower Garden, which grew to be her main focus in life, outside of her family, until she retired. After retiring Pat enjoyed spending time with her family, as well as focusing on her beautiful yard, koi fish, and dog. Pat was a woman of kindness, grace, and class. Always offering a sweet word of advice for anyone who needed it. She listened without judgment or criticism. A woman of second chances for everyone and a "benefit of the doubt" mentality. Not only did she truly love her family, but she also deeply loved her friends, co-workers, and employees. Pat was also a firm believer in forgiveness, as never held a grudge against anyone.

Pat is preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Doris McPheeters; sisters, Barbara Ann and Nikki McPheeters; husband, Wilbur Leedy; eldest son, Harry Leedy; granddaughter, Lindsay Leedy; and son-in-law, Robert Pool.

Pat is survived by her children, Julie Pool of Kingfisher, OK, and Ron (Lisa) Leedy of Weatherford, OK. Her grandchildren, Robby (Jaime) Pool, and Mallori Pool of Kingfisher, OK, Kevin (Kaisa) Leedy of Weatherford, OK, Jenni (James) Horton of Copperas Cove, TX; Kaden, Kolton, Kamron, and Konner Gipson of Weatherford, OK; 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-granddaughter.

A memorial service for Pat will be on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 1 PM at 305 N. Main St. Kingfisher, OK 73750.



## Obituaries

### LINDA BORELLI OBITUARY

Linda Borelli, 85, a longtime resident of Kingfisher, died Saturday, March 15, 2025, in Kingfisher.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 20, at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Kingfisher with Father Benjamin Lwin officiating with burial following at Kingfisher Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Sanders Funeral Service.

Linda was born Nov. 23, 1939, in Bristow to Max and Fern Stange. Her family moved to Hennessey for a short time before relocating to Kingfisher. She graduated from Kingfisher High School in 1957. Linda attended Oklahoma State University for a short time before her marriage. She and Gerald "Gerry" Borelli were married in Kingfisher on April 4, 1961.

She was a member of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Kingfisher. She was a member of many local organizations over the years such as Mothers Club and Bellmon's Belles. Linda was a homemaker until all three of their boys were in school. She then joined Gerry's oil company, Brown & Borelli, as a bookkeeper until his death in 2003.

Linda is survived by her son, Greg Borelli, and his wife Vaynna, and their sons Trey and Isabel, Tyler and Baleigh, and Kyle, all of Kingfisher, and Grant and Allison and their daughter Georgia of Dallas, Texas. She is also survived by son, Christopher Borelli and his wife Kay and their daughters, Hannah and Miranda Borelli of Kingfisher; grandson, Sean and Bryce Borelli, the son of the late Scott Borelli; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Pete and Barbara Borelli Brown of Oklahoma City.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 42 years; her brother, Max Stange, Jr.; and sons, Steven Borelli and Scott Borelli.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations in Linda's name be made to Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Altar Society.





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# Just Said Yes!

## Crystal and Kendall

### The Beginning

Crystal and Kendall first met in 2019 when Crystal moved to Watonga to start a new job through her cousin. It was there that she connected with Kendall, and their chemistry was undeniable. They enjoyed playful flirting and spent time together until Kendall had to leave town to help his brother with the harvest.

During Kendall's absence, Crystal stayed close to his family, assisting his mom and grandma whenever they needed help. When Kendall's mom arranged a trip to visit him and his brother during the harvest, she initially asked Crystal to drive her. However, once his mom fell ill, she insisted that Crystal go alone.

### The Proposal

Fast forward to this past Valentine's Day, when the couple planned a cozy evening of laundry and a movie. Little did Crystal know, Kendall had a surprise in store. He took her out for dinner, and after their meal, when he asked her what she wanted to do next, she jokingly suggested a stroll around Walmart. They spent time shopping before heading home.

Once they arrived, Kendall asked Crystal to turn on his Xbox. When she turned around, she found him down on one knee. After 5½ years together, she said yes!

### The Plans

Crystal and Kendall love story has been full of unexpected moments, including the joyful surprise of their now 4-year-old daughter. Crystal also lovingly embraces Kendall's 7-year-old son as her own. The proposal may have been simple, but it was perfect—just like their love story.

### ***Congratulations, Crystal & Kendall!***

*Are you wanting to make an announcement? Submit your engagement, wedding or baby announcement to be featured in our next publication!*



# Hello World!

## Welcoming the Newest Members of Our Community

We are excited to introduce **Eliana Sage**, Hennessey's newest baby Eaglet! Eliana, affectionately known as Ellie, is the daughter of proud parents Libby Seiger and Alonso Duran, and little sister to big brother Izaiah.

Miss Ellie made her grand entrance on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 4:21 PM. She weighed 7 pounds and 2 ounces and measured 20 inches long!

Congratulations to the Seiger & Duran families!





# TRANSITIONS

## Art Therapy

by Bonny Flesher

Next month will be one year since I started my transition journey into this retirement gig. The boss suggested I call the stories I write, "Transitions." Little did I realize at the time that to transition into retirement and write about it, I would need to live it. As I started my new chapter, it seemed time was my biggest adjustment. I had too much of it!

Moving forward, on any given Tuesday, you will find me at what I call Art Therapy. Some people go and play golf for therapy. I choose to use paintbrushes and drawing pencils. But I found something more. I found myself in an art room with four unique ladies. They are all very talented in each of their mediums of choice. But it's not all about



### AAK Bonny Flesher

*Writer and resident of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. She contributes to "All About Kingfisher" through her column "Transitions by Bonny," where she shares local stories and insights. Her work reflects a deep connection to the Kingfisher community and its history.*



sharing the art. We have shared life-changing events, cried a few tears, and shared a few laughs. We have played music while getting lost in our projects. Of course, you have to get up and walk away from your project. One particular day, I ran to buy a sandwich. It was not until I had eaten half the evidence that I realized I was in such a hurry to get back that I had forgotten to pay for my sandwich. I had to have a call of confession and went back to pay up. The Art Therapy

group is great when it comes to critiquing each other's work. They will tell me to maybe put a shadow here or there. It's amazing how painting a small piece of grass or a flower will change the perspective of a painting and our view of personal situations. I love the colors of paint and the smell of linseed oil. I told my art therapy ladies I wouldn't mention their names in this story. They like being under the radar! I will mention Bernice. She arrived at the group in a large box with

instructions. After piecing her together, she stands tall and strong with beautiful stained wood. Her frame will hold tight to whatever canvas her owner dreams up. Saying "aisle" didn't seem appropriate, so we had to name her Bernice. She is a pillar standing in the light to capture the shadows and shapes in many creations to come! I'm always chasing the need to be better in my drawings, but maybe it's okay to stand still once in a while, like Bernice!





Pictured are Samantha Rivera, Jocelyn Matousek, Miss Kingfisher County Valentina Insignares, Chesney Black and Kate Curran Photo by AAH, Shelley Muzny

**HENNESSEY** – The spotlight was on Valentina Insignares of Kingfisher on Sunday, March 9th, as she was crowned Miss Kingfisher County Class of 2026 at the first-ever pageant under its new name. Formerly known as the Distinguished Young Woman program, this competition gave contestants the chance to compete for scholarships while showcasing their poise, talent, and leadership skills. Insignares took home the crown along with a \$1,000 scholarship.

The evening was filled with friendly competition across multiple categories, including interviews, talent, fitness, and on-stage presence. Kate Curran of Hennessey was named 1st Runner-Up, earning a \$750 scholarship, while Jocelyn Matousek of Hennessey finished as 2nd Runner-Up, securing \$500 in scholarship funds.

In addition to the crowning, contestants were recognized for their achievements in individual categories, each earning scholarships for their efforts:

- Miss Congeniality (\$350): Samantha Rivera (Lomega) • Platform Promise Essay (\$350): Chesney Black (Okarche)
- Scholastic Achievement (\$500): Kate Curran (Hennessey) • Interview Award (\$500): Valentina Insignares (Kingfisher)
- On-Stage Question (\$500): Kate Curran (Hennessey)
- Fitness Award (\$500): Jocelyn Matousek (Hennessey)
- Talent Competition (\$500): Valentina Insignares (Kingfisher)
- Evening Gown Award (\$500): Kate Curran (Hennessey)

The inaugural Miss Kingfisher County Pageant themed “The Bold and Beautiful” was a dazzling display of intelligence and grace, proving that pageantry is far more than just sequins and sashes.

In the end, Valentina Insignares stole the show with her well-rounded performance. Not only did she claim the crown, but she also secured victories in Interview and Talent, making it clear that she’s got both the brains and the brilliance. Now, as Miss Kingfisher County Class of 2026, Insignares will take her talents beyond the county line, representing the area at state-level competitions and local community events. With a title in hand and a tiara to match, her journey is just beginning.

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## FROM URGENT TO PRIMARY CARE: KENDRA GORE LEADS NEW SERVICE FOR iCARE



Kendra Gore was born and raised in Kingfisher County, making her a familiar face in the community. She grew up in Loyal and graduated from Lomega in 2005. In 2004, she moved to Kingfisher, where she met and married her husband, Josh. Together, they have three wonderful children: Drake, Emma, and Elliot. Following high school, Kendra experienced the loss of her father to a stroke. The care he received from the nurses and physicians, along with the compassion

they showed her family, quickly identified the demand for high-quality, personalized care. They are committed to building a practice where patients are seen, heard, and treated with the same level of care that she has always valued. As a mother of two medically complex children herself, Kendra understands the challenges of advocating for oneself or one's children during rushed healthcare visits. One of her primary goals is to genuinely listen to her patients, reminding them that they know themselves and their children best. If something doesn't feel right, she is there to listen and help investigate what might be happening, emphasizing the importance of taking time to understand her patients' needs. Since its opening in June 2023, iCare Centers has built a strong urgent care practice and has been working diligently to expand its primary care services.

Since opening the urgent care, Kendra and her team

to truly focus on their needs, ensuring they never feel rushed or unheard. Additionally, the practice is bringing in external resources to further support patients, including telehealth mental health services to address conditions like ADHD, ADD, and other mental health needs, as well as having cardiology, vascular, and wound care specialists on-site weekly.

At iCare Centers, they believe that good health starts with personalized, compassionate care, and they are dedicated to providing high-quality primary and urgent care to keep families healthy. Whether patients need routine check-ups, chronic condition management, or are dealing with illness, Kendra and her team are there for them. They offer comprehensive wellness exams, chronic disease management, same-day sick visits, and preventive screenings.

Starting April 1st, they will offer full primary care with Kendra, hours from Monday to Thursday, 8 AM to 6 PM. But worry none, patients can still access fast, high-quality urgent care from 8 AM to 8 PM; but they now have the option for primary care that allows for more in-depth discussions about their health concerns. Kendra's goal is to ensure sufficient

iCare Urgent Care - Kingfisher is currently accepting new patients, and scheduling a visit has never been easier. Interested individuals are encouraged to call 572-200-8805 to establish care today. Check them out online at [www.icarecenters.com](http://www.icarecenters.com)

## SALUTING 106 YEARS OF GRATITUDE

The American Legion just marked its 106th birthday, celebrating over a century of service, camaraderie, and dedication to veterans, their families, and communities across the country. Founded on March 15-17, 1919, in the aftermath of World War I, the American Legion was established by a group of veterans determined to support one another and advocate for those who served.

As part of the celebration, a POW\*MIA Remembrance Ceremony was held, a solemn tribute to the prisoners of war (POW) and those missing in action (MIA) who have never returned home. This touching tradition includes an empty table set with symbolic items that represent the sacrifice and uncertainty faced by these brave individuals. It serves as a powerful reminder that they are never forgotten.

For 106 years, the American Legion has stood for patriotism, service, and remembrance, ensuring that no veteran is left behind, whether in life or in memory.

To all our veterans, Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering dedication. We are forever grateful. Photo by AAK Amy Smith



Members of the American Legion who attended the 106th birthday





Senior - Joaquin Wallace



Junior - Harper Evans



Sophomore - Caroline Swafford



Freshman - Scott Schellenberg

## KHS STUDENTS OF FEBRUARY

Congratulations to your Kingfisher High School Students of the Month for February! Way to be an example!

## CONGRATULATIONS BERT

On Friday March 7th, the Kingfisher High School had a signing ceremony for one of their seniors looking to play college ball. That senior was Bert Haag. Bert signed his letter of intent to play football at Southwestern College in Kansas this fall upon his graduation this May. Joining him in this momentous occasion were his family, teammates, coaches, peers, and administrators. Congratulations on this big milestone, Bert! Go Moundbuilders and Go Jackets! Photo by AAK Maitland Pickle.



## Students For The 3rd Quarter 2024-2025



Harrell - Watonga High School - Fanny Mendez - Kingfisher Adult - William Shaver - Kingfisher High School - Loren Smith - Kingfisher Adult - Brayden Osterholt - Kingfisher High School - Evan Banther - Kingfisher High School

## CTTC'S 3RD QUARTER STUDENTS

We would like to extend our congratulations to the Chisholm Trail Technology Center Students of the 3rd Quarter for the 2024/2025 school year.

Jackson Chapman - Watonga High School - Eli Sanders - Kingfisher High School - Kyrie Rice - Watonga High School - Robin Brady - Okarche Adult - Mallory

## 2 DIVISION WINNERS FOR RILEY CROSSWHITE

Congratulations to Riley Crosswhite for bringing home two division winners for Kingfisher with her Heifers! Penny claimed the Division 6 Champion title in Shorthorn, while Diva earned Division 3 Champion in Shorthorn Plus. What an incredible achievement! Go Riley! Information and photos provided by Christin Crosswhite.







## HIGH ACHIEVERS

A huge shoutout to Kingfisher Wrestlers Rylee Hamil, Jaxon Sheppard, and Jose Santoyo for making Western Conference! An extra round of applause for Jose Santoyo and Mason Alig on earning All-Star honors!

Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have paid off, and we couldn't be more proud of you all! Way to represent Kingfisher with pride and excellence!

## REV UP YOUR ENGINES

by AAK Bonny Flesher

On March 8th, Kingfisher Cub Scouts Troop 196 hosted the Kingfisher County Pinewood Derby. The troop had eight scouts and nine non-scouts participating. Each participant started with a block of wood and designed their own race car, which could weigh no more than five ounces. Throughout the building process, they learned about weight distribution and showcased their unique designs.



The Pinewood Derby is an annual event that every pack participates in. Troop 196 has been hosting and participating in this event for so long that they've

lost count; however, they know they have been involved for over 20 years. Look out for next year's Derby and come take part!

## OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

### A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO SEVERAL STANDOUT MEMBERS OF THE KINGFISHER HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PROGRAMS!

#### Girls Basketball -

Taylor Young, head coach of the Kingfisher Girls Basketball team, has been named Coach of the Year for the 2024-2025 season in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC). Additionally, five of her players earned conference honors for their impressive performances:

- Raegan Snider – WAC 1st Team & Offensive Player of the Year
- Reese Roof – WAC 1st Team
- Abbie Myers – WAC 2nd Team
- Adlee Friesen – Honorable Mention
- Mattie Slezickey – Honorable Mention

#### Boys Basketball -

On the boys' side, several players were also recognized for their contributions:

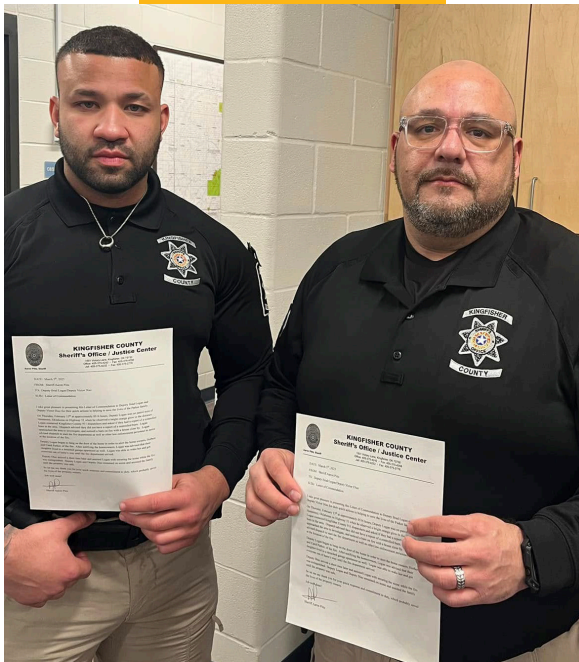
- Hayes White – WAC 2nd Team
- Cash Laird – Honorable Mention
- Jhett Birdwell – Honorable Mention

Congratulations to all these athletes and Coach Young on their well-deserved achievements! Your hard work and dedication continue to make Kingfisher proud!

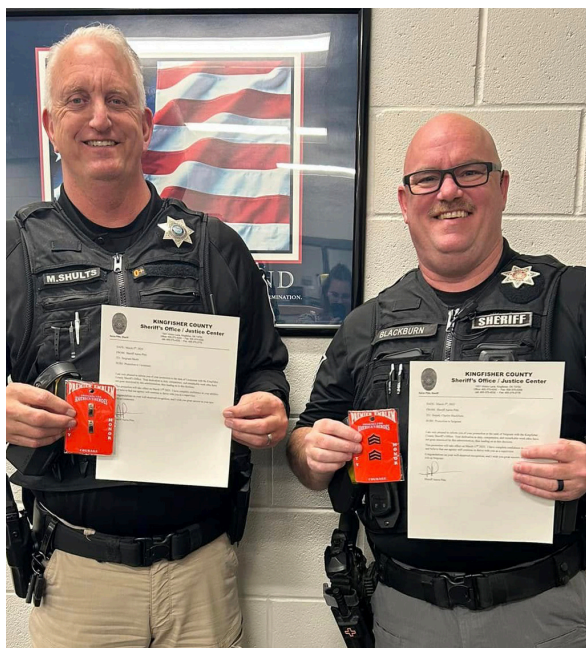


# Kingfisher Sheriff's Office

## NEW HIRE, RECOGNITION, AND PROMOTIONS AT KINGFISHER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Deputy Victor Diaz and Deputy Brad Logan



Lieutenant Mike Shults and Sergeant Charles Blackburn

During a Deputy meeting on Wednesday, March 5th the Kingfisher County Sheriff's Office welcomed Wesley Johnston as a new hire. He began his law enforcement career in 2008 with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office and has since worked with the Watonga Police Department and the Kingfisher County Assessor's Office before joining the team. The office also recognized Deputy Brad Logan and Deputy Diaz for their heroic actions on Thursday, February 13th, when they responded to a fire and successfully alerted homeowners to evacuate safely.

Two promotions were announced as well: Sgt. Mike Shults was promoted to Lieutenant, and Charles Blackburn was promoted to Sergeant. Mike has been with the Kingfisher County Sheriff's Office since 1991, while Charles joined in 2022. Congratulations to you all! photos provided



New hire, Deputy Wesley Johnston



## ROBOTICS TEAM AIMS FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The Kingfisher High School robotics team has once again made it to the state competition, marking an impressive achievement in just its second year. High school teacher Melody Kuehn explained to the Board of Education at their March meeting that while they didn't secure a win, the team gained valuable experience and recognition

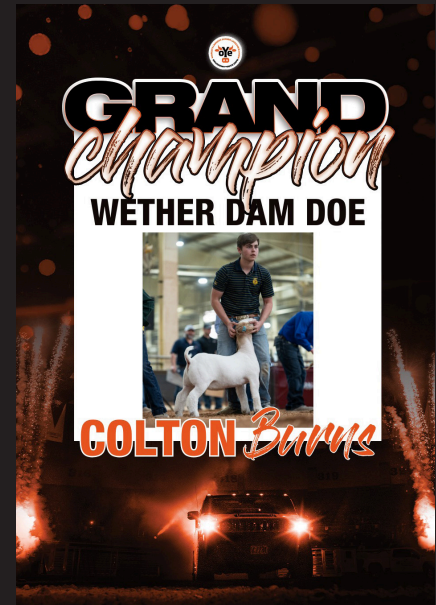


for their efforts. Looking ahead, they are already strategizing ways to improve and set their sights on an even bigger goal—qualifying for the World Championship in the coming years.

Two standout team members, Raiden and Savana, have played key roles in the team's success. Raiden, a junior, serves as the team's main coder, while Savana, a sophomore, excels in CAD design, portfolio management, and leadership as team captain. Her dedication and contributions earned her a nomination for the prestigious Dean's List Award, a special honor in the FIRST Tech Challenge program. After a rigorous selection process, Savana was named one of three finalists for the state of Oklahoma.

As a finalist, Savana will travel with her father to Houston over Easter weekend to attend the national banquet, where 10 winners will be selected. Her strong leadership, technical skills, and ability to represent the team's mission make her a strong contender.

The team is incredibly proud of Savana's accomplishments and looks forward to her continued success, as well as the bright future of their robotics program.



## COLTON BURNS: GRAND CHAMPION WETHER DAM DOE

Congratulations to Kingfisher High School senior, Colton Burns on earning Grand Champion in the Wether Dam Doe show at the Oklahoma Youth Expo this past weekend! Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off, and Kingfisher is proud of you!

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# CHOIR STUDENTS ARE STATE BOUND

On Feb 25, 2025 Kingfisher Junior and High Schools went to NWOSU in Alva for OSSAA District Solo and Ensemble Contest. High School students who earned Superior advance to State, performing on Apr 24, 2025. All students who earn Superior receive an OSSAA District medal and all students who earn an Excellent receive an OSSAA District certificate.

- These JH students earned an excellent:
- Women’s Ensemble - Korbie Baartman, Magaly Charqueno, Tinlie Davidson, Brailyn Schroeder, Abigail Smith, Naomi Smithson, Sydney Snyder, Legaci Goodblanket, Aateri Nowlin, Parker LeForce, Evelyn Martin and Hannah Johnson
  - Tinlie Davidson - Solo
  - Sydney Snyder - Solo
  - Naomi Smithson - Solo
  - Magaly Charqueno - Solo
  - Hannah Johnson - Solo
  - Abigail Smith - Solo

- These JH students earned Superior:
- Evelyn Martin
  - Valeria Rodriguez
  - Brailyn Schroeder
  - Jackson Garrett

- These HS students earned Excellent in solo:
- Indy Barker
  - Haven Branson
  - Elizabeth Pickle
  - Thaddaeus Stephenson
  - Julianna Austin

- Kynslee Nance
- These HS students earned Superior and advance to State:
- Shilo Willingham
  - Bianca Garcia
  - TJ Washington
  - Ethan McLean

Both HS Varisty’s ensembles earned Superior and advanced to State. The 2 ensembles make up a combination of everyone in choir. 12 students are in each ensemble. KHS Junior Varsity earned a Superior and advanced to State.

On Mar 12, 2025 Kingfisher Junior and High Schools went to the OSSAA District Choir contest at Carl Albert HS in MWC. Each choir is required to sing a piece from OSSAA’s Prescribed Music List and an A Cappella piece.

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## NBC KINGFISHER PROMOTES TREVOR BUCKER



Trevor Buckner has been promoted to assistant vice president of commercial lending at the NBC Oklahoma Kingfisher location. He joined NBC in 2022 as a teller after earning his Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He graduated high school from Kingfisher High School and says, "It has always been my goal to raise my family in Kingfisher. I am excited about the opportunity to not only help the people in this community with their bank and lending needs but also give back to the town that helped shape who I am today."

If you are looking for assistance with your lending needs, Trevor and the NBC Kingfisher team are here to help. Stop by the Kingfisher location today, or contact them to learn more about how they can assist you in achieving your financial goals.



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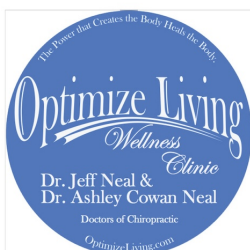
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