

# NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 886-5654 or email ghp@gypfillpremiere.com

## CITIZENS

• From Page 1

commissioners he built his “forever home” in that area, and he’s not going to raise his children near a data center.

“Maybe they need to come to us and buy our homes,” he said. “If they’re going to bring 100 employees, they are going to need houses. “Mine’s for sale.”

### Local Pastor Speaks Out

Sun City Baptist Church pastor Jeff Woods spoke to commissioners for the second straight week on Monday.

The local pastor began his public comment by saying Scripture said the earth was made to be inhabited by people. He then talked briefly about the struggles he and his wife had with the courts in Barber and Pratt counties while trying to adopt their children. Woods said the courts told him “he was too Christian.”

“We have a problem in this county,” he said. “We’re losing our way in Barber County.”

“I don’t want to see Barber County full of a bunch of globalist computers (and) 1984 spy cameras.”

Woods said he has taken several of his grandchildren around Barber County and asked them to envision

themselves living in the area.

“I have a vision for Barber County,” he said. “It doesn’t include Palantir. It doesn’t include Alex Karp (co-founder and CEO of Palantir Technologies). It doesn’t include Google. It doesn’t include all of this.”

He also talked about wanting to be able to get custody of one of his granddaughters, who was placed with a “man who doesn’t work (and) writes porn movies,” according to Woods. He said the courts gave this man custody of the young girl just to spite the Woods, “because again they’re too Christian.”

“We have turned away from God in this county,” the pastor said. “We have a problem in this county.”

Woods then turned his attention back to the potential data center. He said Palantir has “partnered with Google.” He told commissioners Palantir is promoting a “spy state.”

“I’ve talked to people about these spy cameras all over the county. I don’t like them,” Woods said. “We have two things. We have a sheriff’s department and we have the second amendment.”

“I don’t want these global elites buying up our county (and) spreading their cameras – spy equipment.”

Woods also tied the infamous Jeffrey Epstein to Palantir.

“Jeffery Epstein was involved with the start of Palantir, which is involved with Google,” he said.

Woods said Palantir implemented a “kill chain,” which is a military process of identifying, tracking and eliminating targets using advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence, in the conflict in Gaza recently.

“They spied on the people of Gaza,” the pastor said. “The exact same man, Alex Karp, who is the head of Palantir, set that up and is working with Google now to set that up in America.”

“I don’t like the idea of a 1984 spy state.” Woods also briefly addressed 3,000 Google employees quitting when it was found out that the company would use data centers for “military operations.”

“I am against this (data center project),” Woods said. “I do not like the idea of a police state. I do not like the idea of cameras everywhere. I do not like the idea of them hooking them (cameras) up to computers and tracing and tracking all of us. I don’t like the idea of a digital ID.”

“I just want to live in my county, raise my kids and serve my God.”

### Business Owner Speaks

Anthony Farrar, owner of Medicine Lodge’s Indian Oil, spoke with commis-

sioners as a taxpayer and business owner regarding the proposed Google data center.

Farrar said he hopes the commissioners will “negotiate in good faith for the taxpayers.” He told the board he served on the Medicine Lodge City Council for a number of years and understands the budget issues governmental entities face as it relates to income year in and year out.

He said payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) programs gave him heartburn when it came to the wind and solar projects. He referred to the PILOT programs as “legal bribery.”

“Just say it out loud 10 times,” he said. “I just don’t like that.”

Farrar suggested the commissioners get some “predictable tax income” that is not just sent to the county, but also spread out to other taxing entities within the county such as the cities, schools and townships.

Farrar said that would allow entities needing projects completed to borrow money in the bond market against those future payments.

The business owner said he could understand some potential discounts for such a large project, but he also said this would be an opportunity to help local residents and business owners out as

well.

“I just want somewhat equality,” he said.

### Former Teacher Speaks Out

Retired teacher Claudia Vollbracht addressed commissioners Monday morning during the public comment portion of the meeting held in the Annex Building. She told commissioners that while she was not a supporter of the data center, she was able to see the pros and cons of the project.

The former art teacher wanted to make sure the city of Sharon was taken care of if the project goes through in the future. She spoke specifically about a community benefit agreement between the city of Sharon and Google.

Vollbracht said the agreement would outline what the city would like to see as a way of benefit from Google for the data center being constructed so close to the city limits. She said more than just city officials need to be involved in those conversations. She also said a lawyer should be involved.

She told commissioners if the data center is coming, the city of Sharon needs to

receive a benefit.

“It would also help make sure the things that we are worried about – the water, the air – is addressed,” Vollbracht said.

District 1 Commissioner Mike Roe said he was told last week that a conversation about an agreement between Google and the city of Sharon “has been going on for quite some time and it continues to be ongoing.”

Vollbracht asked if it was just the city officials or if other community members were involved.

“Sometimes those are people that have ulterior motives,” she said of city officials.

She also asked when the public was going to be made aware of these conversations and what is being included.

Quick said she would need to address the Sharon City Council for those answers.

“They’re the ones having those meetings. They’re the ones having those conversations,” he said. “We’re not at that point here (at the county) yet, but Sharon could be having those conversations.”

Vollbracht said everything is being done in secret.

“We’ve been kept in the dark quite a lot,” she said.

## STATE

• From Page 1

state’s specialty crop producers. By building relationships between licensed early child care providers and local farmers and producers, this project will increase nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops in our earliest eaters, while creating new market outlets for Kansas specialty

crop producers.

This is the second round of this project; in early 2025 the program was open to licensed early child care facilities. The 2026 round of the project is intended for family child care homes. Individual family child care home providers and organizations who intend to administer the project on behalf of a group of family child care homes in their community or region

are eligible to apply.

Applications are due to KDA no later than 5 p.m. on April 30. Applicants should demonstrate their passion for agriculture education in early childhood development and capacity for purchasing local fruits and vegetables.

Recipients will be notified in May if they have been selected to participate in the project.

For more information,

please visit: [agriculture.ks.gov/grants](http://agriculture.ks.gov/grants) or contact Brittney Grother, KDA ag marketing grants coordinator, at (785) 564-6797 or email her at [Brittney.Grother@ks.gov](mailto:Brittney.Grother@ks.gov).

Funding for this project was made possible by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service.

## COUNTY

• From Page 1

were no specifics in the email. He said the project is still so early in its development he wasn’t sure if Google knew where the location would be at this point.

Another resident asked if the information would be placed on the county’s website. Quick said once the information is received from Google it will be placed on the website just like the previous site plan map was delivered so the public could review it.

Quick also said Google was considering a pair of town hall meetings – one in Sharon and one in Medicine Lodge on March 24 and 25, respectively, although those dates are not official as of Monday’s commission meeting.

In other county news, commissioners voted unanimously, 3-0, to implement a new policy that would allow

certain county employees to bring an infant child to work with them.

Quick said the policy would be a six-month “trial to see how the program works.”

The board chairman said Public Works Director Larry Conner, who has an employee eligible to take advantage of the new infant at work policy, volunteered to give the county feedback as a department head on how the policy works in the day-to-day operations of his department.

Quick said it will be good to get feedback from Conner because “if there’s any department that it (the policy) wouldn’t work in, I think it would be yours, so if you can figure out a way to make it work, and you think it’s a positive thing, I think the other departments will be easier.”

The chairman said he would struggle with a law enforcement official bringing

a child to work within the Sheriff’s Office.

The Gyp Hill Premiere followed up with Barber County Human Resources Director Melissa Simpson on Tuesday for more detailed information regarding the policy. She said the offer was presented to the county’s employee that was eligible, but the offer was declined.

Simpson said in a phone call on Wednesday morning that the policy is in place for six months, so there may be another employee that could seek to utilize the pilot program. The HR director said the county doesn’t currently have anyone else that would fit the criteria, but she also said it may be a good selling point for the county when hiring new employees.

The county also voted unanimously, 3-0, to donate \$1,500 from the diversion fund for USD 254’s 8th-grade camp out program.

Medicine Lodge Junior and Senior High School Assistant

Principal Judd Dohrmann spoke with commissioners about the “unique” opportunity for local students.

He told commissioners \$10 is requested per child, but other private donations in the past have covered the costs, so students are not charged for the adventure.

Dohrmann said the program is able to sustain itself on private donations, as well as the county’s contributions every other year. He said, just like everyone else is experiencing, costs continue to rise. An example was the cost of porta-potties. In 2015, those were \$150, whereas now they are \$368.

Dohrmann said the camp out is set for May and he thinks there are funds to cover this year’s event.

“I think we can get through this year without having to ask for a whole bunch of money,” he said. “Next year will be extremely difficult without some sort of financial contributions.”

# RICKE SERVICE

## 620.886.0856

**ELECTRICAL SEWER PLUMBING HVAC**

## MOLITOR ANGUS RANCH

47th Annual Production Sale

### Saturday, March 21, 2026

#### ♣ 1 PM ♣ at the Ranch

5 miles north and 2 1/2 west of Zenda, KS or 9 miles west, 9 miles south and 2 1/2 west of Kingman, KS

### SELLING 100 BULLS & 40 FEMALES

74 years of Breeding Quality Angus Cattle • 1952 - 2026 •

2014 Certified Angus Beef Seedstock Commitment to Excellence Award

Founding member of **US PREMIUM BEEF** This sale will be broadcast live on the internet. **DVAuction** Real time bidding & proxy bidding available.

**MAIN SERVICE Sires**

- LAR Man in Black - 4 sons
- Kenny Institution 2010 - 7 sons
- Basin True Grrt 1021 - 9 sons
- Cherry Crk Blue Collar 0275 - 7 sons
- LT Firesteel 1123 - 7 sons
- Deer Valley Growth Fund - 15 grandsons
- BAR Dynamic - 2 sons
- HF Safe & Sound 019 - 4 sons
- DAR Propel 1085 - 2 sons
- DAR Buckaroo 3461 - 5 sons
- LD Dually 0191 - 10 sons
- Deppe WW SFF Incredible 281 - 10 sons
- Windy Ridge Great Plain 013 - 5 sons
- Ferguson Breakout 1034 - 4 sons
- DAR Plus One 1225 - 6 sons
- Craft Versatile 828-314 - 3 sons

Plus other sires

All cattle sell free of all known genetic defects. Free delivery on 3 or more lots within 300 miles.

## MOLITOR ANGUS RANCH

Contact: Mike Molitor  
Mike - Cell 620-243-3081  
11558 S.W. 90th St.  
Zenda, KS 67159  
[molangus@onlinezenda.net](mailto:molangus@onlinezenda.net)

# NOW AVAILABLE

Online & All-Access Subscriptions to The Gyp Hill Premiere at [gypfillpremiere.com](http://gypfillpremiere.com)

# ASB

## Alva State Bank & Trust Company

Older than Oklahoma  
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

### Branch Locations

Oklahoma: Alva, Burlington, Enid & Freedom  
Kansas: Kiowa

# MAZE RANCH BEEF

Allan & Patty Maze  
Medicine Lodge, KS  
620.886.5817 • [mazeranchbeef.com](http://mazeranchbeef.com)

Electrical | Plumbing | Heating | Air Conditioning  
Water Well Repair | Sewer Systems

# ECK SERVICES

## 620.672.1275

### LIONS CLUB POTATO BAR AND TOOL & EQUIPMENT AUCTION

#### SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2026

#### DOORS OPEN @ 5:00PM

MEDICINE LODGE LIONS CLUB IS HAVING A BENEFIT EVENT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR NEW HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING (THE OLD UNIT IS UNREPAIRABLE) THE MEAL IS FREEWILL DONATION AUCTION TO BE HELD @ 7:00PM WE ARE SEEKING MORE DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY FOR THE AUCTION CONTACT STEVE PROBST, LIONS CLUB PRESIDENT 816-718-2980

### GOT NEWS? PLEASE SEND NEWS TIPS TO [GHP@GYPHILLPREMIERE.COM](mailto:GHP@GYPHILLPREMIERE.COM)