

“Our intelligence was wrong in 1998 when we were told the North Koreans were three years away from posing a threat, yet the next week they launched an ICBM test missile,” Inhofe said. “There are still gaps today. It is one reason why a strong partnership between the United States and Japan and South Korea is so important.” Inhofe said it is “time for China to step up and be a major stabilizing force in dealing with North Korea.” Inhofe also used the occasion to continue his criticism of the Obama administration’s record on national defense. “Under President Obama’s leadership,” he said, “our missile defenses are less ready and have suffered from his focus on dismantling our military through drastic defense budget cuts. The extent to which this administration continues to neglect these threats weakens our ability to defend this nation and our allies.”

Bridenstine given assignments: Freshman 1st District Congressman Jim Bridenstine received his committee assignments last week. Bridenstine was tabbed for the House Armed Services and the House Science, Space and Technology committees. Oklahoma is currently represented on the science committee by Frank Lucas. The state does T.W. Shannon

The new Speaker of the House pays a \$290 fine to clear a 9-year-old arrest warrant for traffic violations. An anonymous tipster bird-dogged the problem for state Capitol reporters. Welcome to the fish tank. Attorney General Scott Pruitt Decides that police booking photos are public records. Smile, the whole world is looking.

not have a representative on the Armed Services committee, and Bridenstine’s appointment is somewhat unusual in that the 1st District does not have a large military installation. Bridenstine, though, is a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve.

Lucas re-elected chairman: In something of a formality, 3rd District Congressman Frank Lucas was chosen for a second term as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee last week. Lucas, whose district includes the portion of Tulsa in Osage County, is the longest-serving member of the state’s congressional delegation.

Oklahoma and federal funding: A report issued last week by the conservative Tax Foundation says 39 percent of Oklahoma’s state government revenues come directly from the federal government. That’s the 14th-highest share among the 50 states. Mississippi is the most dependent, receiving 49 percent of its

funding from the federal government. Alaska is the least dependent, at 24 percent. Among surrounding states, Missouri ranks fifth (44 percent), New Mexico seventh (43 percent), Texas 11th (40 percent), Arkansas 27th (36 percent), Kansas 35th (33 percent) and Colorado 38th (32 percent). Fallin in Washington: Gov. Mary Fallin and Delaware Gov. Jack Markell will present a "State of the States" address at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 9. Markell is chairman of the National Governors Association, and Fallin is vice chairman.