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Twelve pages

Longtime School Bus Stop Is No More

Starting Thursday, August 28, 2025, the bus stop at the former Hillside School (502 W. 5th Street) will no longer be in service at the request of the property's new owner.



Students on routes 16, 21 and 31 will now use the new stop at Grace Lutheran Church, on the north side along the Street (6th & Carroll). Grace Lutheran Church has agreed to allow use of their space as a stop for USD 495 students.

Meet the New Teachers at Ft. Larned USD 495



Brian Deterding Named Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Larned High School
Allisa Spain

USD 495 is excited to welcome Brian Deterding as Larned High School's new Assistant Principal and Athletic Director.

Brian comes to us from Kiowa County, where he's spent the past 12 years in a variety of roles including District Athletic Director, Junior High Principal, and Virtual School Principal. He's done a little bit of everything and is looking forward to getting started in Larned.

He grew up in Belleville, Kansas, and earned his degree in History Education from Fort Hays State University. He later completed a master's degree in Educational Administration through Wichita State University.

When we asked Brian what people might be surprised to learn about him, he shared that he's a lifelong Nebraska fan. (Growing up just 13 miles from the state line will do that to you!) He shouldn't have any trouble finding good company at LHS though. Scott Upson's classroom is covered in Husker red, and we're pretty sure he'll have a welcome sign ready.

Outside of work, Brian en-see BRIAN page 12



Jorden Drimmel Joins LMS as 6th Grade Math Teacher
Allisa Spain

He's no stranger to USD 495! After supporting students as a para and tech aide, Jorden Drimmel is stepping into a new role as the 6th grade math teacher at Larned Middle School.

Originally from Atchison, Kansas, Jorden attended Wichita State University. He says he's most excited to create fun and engaging lessons that help students enjoy learning and look forward to coming to school.

Outside the classroom, Jorden enjoys drawing and working on custom cup designs. He says art is something he couldn't live without, and drawing helps him relax and recharge.

Jorden and his partner, Kaleigh, have one daughter. Something you might be surprised to learn about him is that he grew up next door to the Sally House, which is often called the most haunted house in Kansas!

Jorden already knows many of the students heading into 6th grade this year, and we know they'll be excited to see a familiar face in their math classroom. Have a great year, Mr. Drimmel!



A big crowd gathered at the Larned Booster Club Dinner.

Big Crowd at Booster Club Dinner Event Kicks Off Fall Sports Season at LHS

By: C. TABLER

Monday evening the Larned Indian Booster Club held their fundraiser dinner at the Larned Community Center, jumpstarting the Fall sports season at Larned High School.

Booster Club President Jessie Miller welcomed a capacity crowd to the event and invited the attendees to enjoy dinner served by Fusion Bank and their employees.

Each head coach of Larned High School's varsity sports took turns at the microphone, telling about their teams, naming the participants, and delivering statements about

projections for their upcoming season.

The event brought out all of the High School athletes to be honored and their parents and fans of sporting events and the Booster Club. The annual event, sponsored by the Booster Club is a major fundraiser for the year. Funds from the dinner and enrolling as members of the Booster Club go to support athletes, coaches and each sport at Larned High School during the year.

In thanking the Booster Club, several coaches men-see BOOSTER page 12



LHS Head football coach addresses the crowd.

Commissioners Approve Solar Project

On Monday, August 25, 2025, the Pawnee County Board of Commissioners took Final Action on the Conditional Use Permit Application of Kinsley Solar LLC for a 150 MW Solar Generation Facility with up to 150 MW storage capacity and a separate application of Kinsley Storage Project, LLC of 50 MW of battery storage. Both projects are proposed to be located in the Keysville Township.

Following public comment, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the conditional use permits.

Kinsley Solar LLC and Kinsley Storage Project, LLC are owned by Tenaska, a privately owned energy company with its corporate headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska.

The permit applications were reviewed and approved by the Pawnee County Planning Commission following a public hearing on August 5, 2025. At the public meeting before the Planning Commission, Tenaska advised that Sunflower Electric will be



providing the substation for this proposed project. Based on Sunflower's required lead time, construction on this proposed project will not commence until late 2027 and will take more than a year to construct.

Under current State law, the solar generation equipment is exempt from property taxes for a period of ten years. Battery storage is currently subject to taxation, but there is pending legislation to include the batteries within the definition of exempt property. Pawnee County has not offered, nor agreed to any additional property tax abatements. The land upon which the proposed

facilities will be located will continue to be subject to ad valorem property taxes. The land is currently assessed as Ag land. Once operational the Ad Valorem Real Property Tax will be assessed at the commercial rate.

The company entered into lease agreements with the landowners on which the proposed facilities will be located. The leases are private agreements between the landowners and the company, including the terms of the agreed upon compensation. Private landowners made their own decisions as to whether leasing to any company was see SOLAR page 12

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