

# High Plains News

## Sainty Wrestlers Make History at State

BY KAREN KNAUER

With a traditional Saint Francis send off, Washington Street was lined with Green and Gold Thursday afternoon. Residents of Saint Francis gathered to cheer and show support for their 2026 hometown wrestling state qualifiers.

Seven talented wrestlers fought hard to move on to the state competition in Hays this past Friday and Saturday.

Ending the regular season with phenomenal 100 career wins, Seniors: Madison Siegfried, Cheyenne Labarge, Dayton Fromholtz and Layn Todd looked forward to adding more wins while competing this weekend. Junior Reagan Milne, Sophomore Makayla Hays and Freshmen Henzley Matthies also earned the opportunity to compete in Hays.

On top of his 100 career wins, Dayton Fromholtz leaves his mark in the SFCHS record books by toppling four school records. Season Falls: 33 beating Billy Gable's record of 30. Career Falls: 86 beating Trevor Richard's record of 80. Career Reversals: 95 beating Kevin Lampe's record of 79 and Career Escapes: 86 beating Chris Richard's record of 73.

In Hays, Dayton Fromholtz competed in the 157# weight class, narrowly falling by decision, 6-5. He finished the tournament with a fourth-place medal and a spot on the podium. Fromholtz closed out his senior season with a 39-7 record.

Layn Todd finished his high school wrestling career as a one-time state qualifier with career record of 102-54. And a season record of 30-11.

Freshman Henzley Matthies defeated senior Kaeleigh Klein of Plainville High School by decision, 10-7, claiming first place in the 100# weight class. The victory preserves Matthies' undefeated 29-0 record and marks a historic milestone as she becomes the first female wrestler in SFCHS history to win a state wrestling championship.

Reagan Milne ended her junior season in the blood round as a two-time state qualifier with a 25-19



Henzley Matthies stands at the top of the podium as a newly-minted State Champion Wrestler, 100-pound weight class. photo / Grace Donohue



Saint Francis Team Coaches and Wrestlers (l-r): Adam Guthmiller, Kyle Buffington, Dayton Fromholtz, Madison Siegfried, Henzley Matthies, Cheyenne Labarge, Chris Labarge, Garrett Brunk. photo / Grace Donohue

record and career record of 51-59.

Makayla Hays finished her sophomore season as a two-time state qualifier with a 25-17 season record and a career record of 42-36.

Madison Siegfried wrestled for 5th place in the 120# class and won with a fall thus earning her place on the podium with 5th place medal. Madison is a four-time state qualifier, and this

was her first time placing. Her Senior season record was 38-13 with a 104-49 career record.

Cheyenne Labarge wrestled for 5th place in the 125# class. She earned her a spot on the podium and a 5th place medal. Cheyenne is a four-time state qualifier and two-time state placer. Her senior season record 38-12 and a career record of 130-43.

Congratulations teams!

## Harding Receives Farmers National Gold Eagle Award

Farmers National Company, the nation's leading farm and ranch management and brokerage company, is pleased to announce that Lori Harding was recently presented the Farmers National Company Gold Eagle Award for her outstanding efforts in real estate sales.

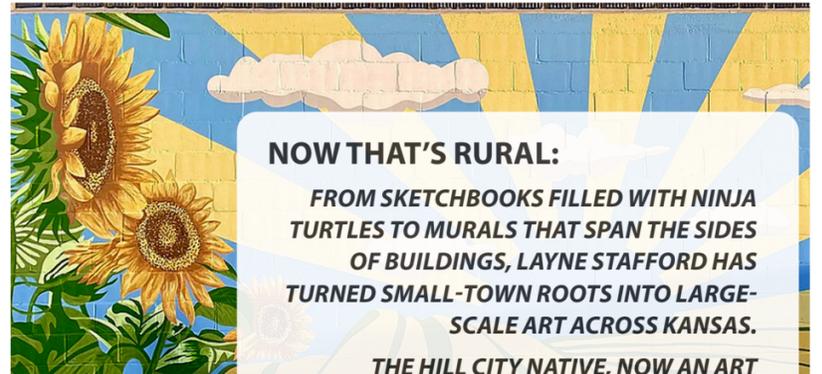


Lori Harding, real estate sales agent with Farmers National Company, received the company's top award for real estate sales in 2025. She began working for Farmers National Company in 2023.

Lori recently opened a new office located at 307 Nelson Street in downtown Cambridge, Nebraska, to offer convenient, personalized assistance to clients seeking help with buying or selling real estate, along

with guidance on FNC's wide range of services. Lori can be contacted at (308) 660-1861 or by email at LHarding@FarmersNational.com.

Employee-owned Farmers National Company is the nation's leading landowner services provider. Farmers National Company manages nearly 5,000 farms and ranches in 30 states comprising more than 2 million acres. For more information on our company and the services provided, visit [www.FarmersNational.com](http://www.FarmersNational.com).



### NOW THAT'S RURAL:

FROM SKETCHBOOKS FILLED WITH NINJA TURTLES TO MURALS THAT SPAN THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS, LAYNE STAFFORD HAS TURNED SMALL-TOWN ROOTS INTO LARGE-SCALE ART ACROSS KANSAS.

THE HILL CITY NATIVE, NOW AN ART EDUCATOR AND MURALIST, IS HELPING COMMUNITIES TELL THEIR STORIES IN BOLD COLOR AND BROAD BRUSHSTROKES.

story ON PAGE 6

## Child Care Aware of Kansas Recognizes NWKS Childcare Champions

Child Care Aware of Kansas recently recognized 18 Northwest Kansas counties and communities as Child Care Community Champions, honoring their dedication to strengthening local child care systems.

Northwest counties and communities recognized include:

- Cheyenne County Childcare Initiative
- Decatur County Child Care
- Ellis County Child Care Task Force
- Ellis Community Child Care Coalition (community of Ellis)
- Victoria Community Coalition, Inc.
- Quinter Community Development
- Graham County Little Roosters Day Care Foundation
- Jewell County Strong, Inc.
- Oakley Child Care Coalition
- Bennington Child Care Coalition
- Rawlins County Childcare Stakeholders
- Growing Children Republic County Foundation
- Plainville Wellness Coalition
- Russell County Childcare Coalition
- Saline County Early Childhood Initiative
- Sheridan County Community Foundation
- Sherman County Childcare Coalition
- Wallace County Community Child Care Coalition



Childcare is an important issue to Northwest Kansas, said Innovation Center Childcare Program Specialist, Dana Jo Stanton. "We have worked hand-in-hand with Child Care Aware of Kansas to help establish and support child care coalitions across the region. These coalitions are comprised of local volunteers who just want to improve childcare in their community."

Childcare coalitions are often formed to address a shortage of childcare slots but often go beyond that need. "I am pleased to see many of our childcare coalitions working to better support current childcare providers," said Stanton. "Adding new childcare slots is only part of the solution. It is critical that we also support the current childcare workforce."

For more information on how to get involved in community childcare support, contact Dana Jo Stanton at (785) 874-5150.

## Chance of precipitation for the northwest

BY DESTRY JACKSON

Erin Rhoades, a meteorologist with the United States Weather Service Station of Goodland, Kan., reported, "Next week, March 2-6, will be more rainy, with Tuesday and Wednesday having the best chance for rain. If storms come to the area, they will likely come from the west and move to the east. Even with the chances for rain, the high temperatures will likely be in the 50s to 60s, with Thursday and Friday likely warming up from there to the upper 60s into the 70s."

"We're in a transitional zone, weather-wise," Rhoades explained. "We're between the La Niña and El Niño patterns. The La Niña pattern is the drought pattern for the area, and the El Niño pattern is the wetter pattern."

Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
Low: 36 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 61 °F
Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Slight Chance Rain then Partly Cloudy	Chance Rain and Breezy

Hopefully, the area should see more rain soon."

Rhoades also reviewed the extended forecast for March 5-11, which indicates above-average temperatures and precipitation.

With the upcoming forecast, it's also important to remember that severe weather season will arrive soon. The National Weather Service station in Goodland is offering the annual weather spotter training classes in the coming weeks. For the local area, Rawlins County will be next on the list with spotter training

on March 4 at 6:30 p.m., Cheyenne County will be March 5 at 6:30 p.m., Thomas County will be March 16 at 6:30 p.m., Decatur County will be March 18 at 6:30 p.m. at The Gateway, Norton will be on March 25 at 6:30 p.m., Greeley County will be March 26 at 6:30 p.m., Wallace County will be April 1 at 6:30 p.m. For exact locations and directions, check out [weather.gov/gld/2026stormspottertrainingschedule](http://weather.gov/gld/2026stormspottertrainingschedule). Make plans to attend a meeting in your local area to learn more about storms and how to spot them.

## Conservation District, LWG to Meet in Goodland

The Goodland Management Unit consisting of Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace County Conservation Districts will be hosting a Local Working Group (LWG) meeting on Tuesday, March 10, at 10:00 am MT at Goodland Historical Building located at 1003 Main in Goodland, Kansas.

The purpose of this meeting is to make recommendations to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist related to addressing natural resource concerns at the local level.

"LWGs are important because they provide recommendations on local

and state natural resource priorities and criteria for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation activities and programs. It is critical that the 'boots on the ground' have a voice in the process," said Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

# Cheyenne county

## Over 20 plus years of spaghetti



Community members enjoy food and fellowship at the Kansans for Life annual spaghetti luncheon. This year's event was hosted by First Christian Church.

SHEREE L. WINGO

The local chapter of the Kansans for Life held their annual spaghetti luncheon on March 1st, 2026. Held at a different Church every year, this year was the First Christian Church's turn. A good crowd turned out for: baked spaghetti, green beans, garlic bread and a variety of pies. A free will donation was collected



to benefit: Local families in crisis, Hope's place in Goodland, Save the Storks, A caring Pregnancy resource Center in Wray, Miriam's Hope in Oberlin, Students for Life, KFL

and Justice for all, KGCR radio station and state wide education programs. The spaghetti luncheon was originally the idea of Natalie Knodel, Janice Kirkwood, Shelly Bartlett and Shirley Swiheart.

The local chapter meets every three months on the second Monday. You can contact Natasha Wilson or Dorothy Kellner for more information.

## A proper send-off to state comps



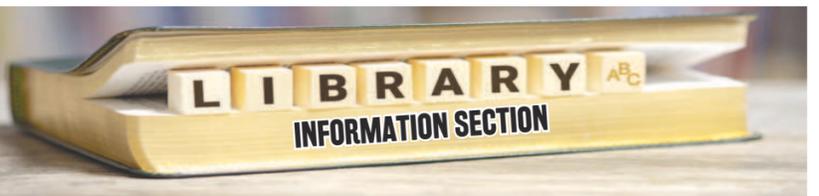
Wrestlers heading to state competition are cheered on by students and parents before their road trip last week. A long line of vehicles and sirens greeted them on their way out of town.

photo/Grace Donohue

## Marilyn Frisbie's Art on Display at the Hardt Gallery

The Timeless Art of Marilyn Frisbie will be featured at the Hardt Gallery through March. Ms. Frisbie is known for her vibrant, detailed and colorful oil paintings depicting rural Kansas life. Drawing inspiration from the surrounding landscape, her sunflowers, barns, and windmills showcase her passion for country living. She has studied under several artists and has won multiple awards.

The opening reception for the exhibit is Saturday, March 7 at 10:30 CT. Everyone is invited to this display of Marilyn's original artwork.



### STORYTIME

Storytime is held every 1st Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm. April's storytime will be April 1st.

### DVDS

We added some more donated DVDs to our collection...come in and check out what we have!

### PUZZLES

The puzzles are still being put out, and patrons are working on them a little bit at a time. The newest one we had put out was a Dr. Seuss books puzzle which was a 1000-piece puzzle, and it is already completed.

We have set out another puzzle to be worked on but feel free to choose something different from our collection or bring one of your own to share with others. Come on down and help put a few pieces or many pieces together!

### CHILDREN LEARNING SIGNING

Our next showing of "Signing Time" will be on Friday, March 13th at 11:00am and 4:30pm. These sessions are open to children ages 1 and up. We ask that children under the age of 5 be accompanied by a parent or caretaker of

responsible age, and they must stay with the child for the duration of the program. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the library at 785-332-3292 during regular business hours. You won't want to miss this great learning opportunity for your children, and you might even enjoy learning it yourself!

### TAX FORMS

If you need Federal and/or State Tax forms, stop by the library and we will give you copies of what you need free of charge.

Prices valid March 5-11, 2026

# SUPER'S

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# Cheyenne county

## City Council Meeting 02/23/2026

SHEREE L. WINGO

Mayor Amanda Milne called the regular meeting of the St. Francis city council to order at 7pm. All council members were present. The minutes from the two meetings on February 9th were approved. There was no attorney report as City attorney Lauren Reylets was not present.

Under new business: Lynn, a manager at the Equity, was seeking an easement for the scale house building. The scale house has been sold but there are several utilities underneath the building. Michael, an attorney, was on the phone to advise the city.

Tom Keller spoke about the up keep at the Keller Pond. His grandsons have been taking care of the property and would like to continue to do so. Tom would like to continue to see them do the work as it is their legacy but he would also like to see them get paid for it. He proposed giving \$5,000 to the city and paying his grandsons out of that. The council was unsure about the legality of that and would need to consult with Attorney Reylets on whether they would need to put this out for bid and the liability insurance requirements.

An Itinerant vendor license was approved for Rachel Morris and the spring refresh market.

A local resident brought it to the cities attention a property on Webster Street that needs to be cleaned up at it is an eyesore.

Sheriff Beeson gave a January report. There is hope that deputy Matt Grogan will be back in May but with things going on around the world, he might be re-deployed. Cody is looking at getting new dog catcher poles as the ones they have right now are carried in the back of the vehicles and exposed to the weather.

He is also looking at setting up some cameras at Keller Pond to see what is really going on out there.

Several chicken permit renewals were approved. A new chicken permit was approved on the condition that the wood pallets used as the roof be covered as the city doesn't allow wood pallets for use as roofing or fencing.

Two tree and landscape contractors licensee were approved.

Bob Ogden came to talk about a property at North and Quincy he is looking to buy from the city. There was talk about a drainage ditch on the property that the city will still need to maintain. Another question was whether the sale of the land needs to be put out for bidders. So, the matter will be tabled until City Attorney Reylets has a chance to look it over.

There was talk about property clean-ups. The people get the notice, they do the bare minimum, than it's gets bad again. Something needs to be done with these places, this has been going on too long.

City Superident Dan Blair said the water tower is coming up on it's 100 year life span in 20228. The city needs to start thinking about what to do next.

There will be a new city clerk starting on Wednesday, February 25th.

Under council comments, council member Erskin said he will be going to Topeka March 11th to talk to elected officials about the frontage road mess with videos. Council member Butler is on the agenda for Friday, February 27th for the county commissioners meeting. He is hoping to attend their meetings more and maybe they will come to city council meetings also.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

## County Commissioners 02/27/2026

SHEREE L. WINGO

Commissioner Brett Polling called the regular meeting of the County Commissioners meeting to order with the flag salute. All commissioners were present along with County Clerk Sharissa Andrist and County Attorney Lesile Biems. The minutes from the last meeting and the accounts payable and payroll warrants were approved.

County Attorney Biems said at the recent tax sale, all properties were sold. She also had a quit claim deed for the park behind the courthouse deeding it over to the city.

County Clerk Andrist said the April meeting will need to be moved to April 17th. There is a meeting of the commissioners in Colby April 15th in Colby that all department heads are planning on attending. The website is not in compliance with accessibility standards under the title 11 of the ADA. Commissioner Faulkender was upset because it seems like every month there is a new fee or charge to pay. Commissioners Faulkender and Martinez voted yes while Commissioner Poling voted no. The official County newspaper was changed to High Plains News.

Fire Chief Dan Blair was present to talk about fire department news. The tender truck needed repairs in the amount of \$2,604.30. That amount was approved. The job description for the new

fire chief needs to be defined before an ad is placed in the newspaper.

County Appraiser Amanda Milne was present. She said that the agricultural land values in the county have gone down -3%. Native grass equals 43% of the acres in the county, Dry land is 50% and irrigated land is 8%. She said that Sharissa, Dawn and herself will be at the Senior Center on March 17th for a talk.

City Council member David Butler was present to talk about the city and county working together. Maybe have commissioners come to city council meetings and city council come to commissioners meetings. All agreed that was a good idea.

Eddy Schultz with the Cheyenne County Village said a representative from the key card company will be coming March 25th. Executive session was called, but no decision was made.

County Clerk Andrist said she will miss the last March meeting as she will be at a conference.

An executive session was called, no decision.

Road and bridge supervisor Steve Wilhelm was unable to be there but left a report. An employee passed his CDL license so Steve would like him moved up to class-two pay rate. That was approved.

County attorney Lesile Biems called for an executive session. No decision was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12am.

## HOME AND FAMILY

### St. Patrick's Day

MELINDA DAILY, SUNFLOWER EXTENSION DISTRICT

March is the time of year that we start seeing signs of Spring! Between St. Patrick's Day and March Madness basketball, there will be lots of celebrations.

A traditional St. Patrick's Day feast celebrated by Irish-Americans includes corned beef and cabbage or a Rueben sandwich. So, what is corned beef?

According to the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, corning is a form of curing. The name comes from Anglo-Saxon times before refrigeration. In those days, the meat was dry-cured in coarse "corns" of salt. Pellets of salt, some the size of kernels of corn, were rubbed into the beef to keep it from spoiling and to preserve it.

Today brining – the use of salt water – has replaced the dry salt cure, but the name "corned beef" is still used, rather than "brined" or "pickled" beef. Commonly used spices that give corned beef its distinctive flavor are peppercorns and bay leaf.

Corned beef is made from one of several less tender cuts of beef like the brisket, rump or round. Therefore, it requires long, moist cooking. Keep food safety in mind when preparing corned beef. It can be cooked on top of the stove or in the oven, microwave or slow cooker.

Corned beef may still be pink in color after cooking. This does not mean it is not done. Nitrite is used in the curing process, which fixes pigment in the meat and affects the color.

Allow the brisket to stand for about 20 minutes after removing from the heat. This will make easier to slice, and it is best sliced diagonally across the grain or the meat.

An easy Dutch oven corned beef is super easy to make and bonus, there is usually enough for a second night or lunches for the next few days. And don't forget ALL the sides. Whether you are keeping it simple with mashed potatoes, boiled cabbage, and peas, or serving it up cold the next day with some salad and homemade bread. It will be great!

Here are some food ideals to prepare with your corned beef. Start with some Roasted Balsamic Beetroot and Carrot Salad with Labneh. The flavors of roasted balsamic carrots and beets on a bed of lentils topped with labneh and dukkah. To go along with that add some Black garlic potato gratin. I find every family has their own version of a potato gratin. With bacon, or without, how much cream, and should there be cheese? Then add some Smoky Sweet Corn Ribs in the Oven. They can be prepared ahead of time.

You can find all kinds of sides to go along with this meal.

## Senior Menu

### St. Francis Senior Center March 10-13

- March 10**  
Tuesday - Chicken strips, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, biscuit and cinnamon apples
- March 12**  
Thursday - Taco burger, lattuce, tomato, cheese, mexi corn, bun and tropical fruit
- March 13**  
Friday:- Tuna noodle casserole, peas & carrots, cornbread and fruit cobler

Please call 785-332-2945 by noon the day prior to reserve your meal.

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- March**
  - *Hardt Gallery*
  - *Marilyn Frisbee's Timeless Art*
  - *Opening reception March 7 @ 10:30am*
- March**
  - *Lions Club bingo - 2nd & 4th Saturday*
  - *Doors open at 6pm game starts at 7:00pm*
- March 28**
  - *CCWI Banquet*
  - *Bird City American Legion*
  - *Tickets available thru board members*
  - *Bumper to Bumper or Hometown Market*

Email Dan at [sainty.ads@nwkansas.com](mailto:sainty.ads@nwkansas.com) to add your event!

## The Saint Francis Herald & Bird City Times

310 W. Washington, St. Francis, KS 67756 • (785) 332-3162

### 2026 Cheyenne County Annual Blood Lab



**health FAIR**

**Please Note: Only one health fair per year.**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> in SF - Health Dept**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> Bird City Clinic**

**6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

**Mark Your Calendars for the only Health Fair of the year.**

**For more information contact the Cheyenne County Health Department at 785-332-2381**

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**Safely dispose of your unused or expired medications at Cheyenne County Hospital. Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Kiosk is located inside the hospital front door to the right.**



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## The Saint Francis Herald

*and Bird City Times*

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A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

### High Plains News South

Published each Thursday by Mullen Newspaper Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756.  
Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756, and at additional offices.

Phone: (785) 332-3162  
Editorial: [sainty.news@nwkansas.com](mailto:sainty.news@nwkansas.com)  
Advertising: [sainty.ads@nwkansas.com](mailto:sainty.ads@nwkansas.com)  
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Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

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Subscriptions: One year \$45 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$52 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$59. E-type subscriptions without the hard copy newspaper delivered, \$45. Elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$25 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 104 W. U.S. 24, Goodland, KS 67735



# Decatur county

## Norcatour Community Gathers for First Chili Cook-Off and Movie Night

The Norcatour Cardinal Society hosted its inaugural chili cook-off on Sunday, Feb. 22, drawing approximately 45 community members for an evening of friendly competition, fellowship, and entertainment.

Eight chili entries were submitted for judging, giving attendees a wide variety of flavors to sample before casting their votes. Organizers reported that the voting was closely contested, with support spread across all entries.

Taking top honors was chili No. 8, prepared by Larry Farless, which earned twelve votes. Farless received a \$40 cash prize along with the honor of having his name engraved on a golden-colored spoon commemorating the

event. Farless generously donated the money back to the Norcatour Cardinal Society for future events.

Second place went to chili No. 3, entered by Tabettha Harris, who received five votes from attendees.

A four-way tie for third place followed, with three votes each awarded to entries prepared by Joe Carter, Leia Gallentine, Kary Miller, and Bob Streyev.

After the votes were counted and winners announced, the evening continued with a community movie showing of the classic adventure film *The Goonies*, providing a relaxed ending to a successful first-time event.

Organizers described the cook-off as a strong turnout and a positive



Chili Cook off winner Larry Farless (right) and wife Raelyn. Farless earned a \$40 cash prize and a commemorative spoon award.

start for what they hope will become a yearly tradition celebrating small-town connection and community spirit.

The Norcatour Cardinal Society is actively looking for donations, members and has one board seat available. If interested,

please reach out to them at [norcatourcardinalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:norcatourcardinalsociety@gmail.com) or their Facebook page Norcatour Cardinal Society -NCS.

Donations can be mailed to Norcatour Cardinal Society, Box 117, Norcatour, KS 67653.

## And the Souper Bowl Winner Is...

BY PASTOR SHELLY HOLLE

In preparation for the Super Bowl earlier this month, Faith Lutheran Church's third through sixth grade Bible Gang invited the community to join them in making a collection of items for the Souper Bowl of Caring. This is a national movement to combat hunger among the communities who participate. Each participating agency designates a food ministry recipient of what they gather. The Bible Gang designated their gathered items would go to the Decatur County Food Pantry.

Scheduled around the Super Bowl football game, grocery carts were left at Faith Lutheran Church and Raye's Grocery Store decorated for the Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots. Community members were encouraged to contribute food, toiletry items and paper products into the cart decorated for the team they were cheering on to show their Super Bowl and Souper Bowl of Caring spirit.

The Seattle Seahawks won the big game on February 8. However, they were not the team who received the most support from the congregation of Faith Lutheran and the greater Oberlin community. After the items were sorted and counted, there were 159 items donated to show support for the Seattle Seahawks, but 168 items showing support for the New England Patriots. Of course, with a variety of 327 items including canned goods, rice, pasta, cereals, toilet paper, diapers and more received, the real winners were the food pantry and all of the families it serves.

Bible Gang members were excited about this opportunity and reported, "It was amazing that we could do so much to help in such a short amount of time!" After all, this project could not start until the opposing teams had been determined only two weeks before.



## Digging Deep

BY DESTRY JACKSON

With the combining of the newspapers, I've been thinking a lot about change. Change is inevitable. While each town has enjoyed having our own identity with our newspapers and all, the times have changed. The population has reduced enough that the time has come to join all six counties together with one newspaper.

We will still be devoted to covering our areas as best we can with local news, we will also have access to the news from the other counties in the group. Many of our readers have loved ones in several of the counties in Northwest Kansas. In many ways, it makes sense to have one large newspaper to cover the entire area.

I grew up in the Norcatour area and went to Oberlin to school from Kindergarten through high school. I came back home after graduate school to make a difference in my home area, and I believe I have done a good job of serving my local community. With this combining of newspapers, I will still be covering the Decatur County area. I will still commit myself to covering as much of the local news as I can. Our readers will still receive their newspapers, but the news will have a different name: High Plains News.

I am looking forward to continuing to bring the readers quality local news.

## Library to Host Artist, Educator Open House

OBERLIN, Kan. — The Oberlin City Library will host a Grand Opening and Open House for The Jungle Books, an epic hand-painted mural by local artist and educator Ladd Wendelin, on Saturday, March 7, beginning at 10 a.m. The public is encouraged to arrive early, as a fanfare, dedication, and ribbon cutting will begin promptly at 10 a.m.

Following the dedication, guests are invited to attend an open house featuring crafts, games, prizes, and special surprises! Light refreshments will be served in the basement Youth Center, and guided tours of the mural will be offered throughout the event.

The Jungle Books is a hand-drawn, hand-painted mural spanning over 300 square feet. The immersive work transforms the library stairwell into a vibrant jungle scene where 265 individual animals across 54 species discover and interact with books.

The mural is located at the Oberlin City Library, where it will remain on permanent public display. The March 7 dedication and open house are free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at (785) 475-2412 or email Wendelin at [lwendelin@usd294.org](mailto:lwendelin@usd294.org).

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<i>Great Plains Health Heart Institute</i> G. Kaspar, M.D. 308-344-8285 S. Dassouki, M.D. 308-344-8285	<b>ONCOLOGY - RADIATION</b> T. Hlavaty, M.D. 308-344-8374 A. Reynolds-Lorentz, PA-C 308-344-8374
<i>Nebraska Heart Institute</i> R. Heirigs, M.D. 308-344-8285	<b>OPHTHALMOLOGY</b> T. Clinch, M.D. 800-657-2112
<i>Platte Valley Medical Group</i> S. Denney, M.D. 308-344-8285	<b>ORTHOPEDICS</b> E. Correll, M.D. 308-344-8285 R. Lawton, M.D. 308-344-8285 M. Bragat, PA-C 308-344-8285 K. Huxoll, PA-C 308-344-8285
<b>DERMATOLOGY</b> J. Bunker, M.D. 308-344-8285	<b>ORTHOPEDICS - SPINAL</b> D. Benavides, M.D. 308-344-8285
<b>EAR, NOSE, THROAT</b> J. Blecha, M.D. 308-344-8285 P. Fitzpatrick, M.D. 308-344-8285	<b>PODIATRY</b> R. Hinze, D.P.M. 308-345-3773 or 877-345-FOOT
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICINE</b> C. Erickson, M.D. 308-344-2650 B. Mikesell, M.D. 308-344-2650	<b>PSYCHIATRY - TELEHEALTH</b> M. de Brito McGee, M.D., MS, MPH 531-355-1449
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# Decatur county

## County Commissioners

BY DESTRY JACKSON

At the Feb. 24 meeting of the Decatur County Commissioners, Fire Chief Bill Cathcart reported, “The fire department is needing some new pagers. The new one-way pagers would come with a two-year warranty. The cost for five pagers and the warranty would be \$2,750.” The Commissioners approved the purchase of new pagers, with Commissioner Justin Scott abstaining from the vote, as his brother is the supplier for the new pagers.

“We also need a couple new tires for the quick attack vehicles,” Cathcart explained. “One was ruined the other day at the Herndon fire. The spare tire is already on another vehicle. I’d like to order two more tires. One tire we ordered quickly after the tire was ruined at Herndon is set to arrive today. We also need to replace the spare tire as well, and it would be excellent to have a replacement on hand.” The Commissioners approved ordering two more tires.

“We are also needing some new flooring at the fire station, as the current flooring is not immune to water coming up from below,” Cathcart explained. “Hays Fire is building a slip-in unit for the unit at Jennings. We are also still waiting on the new pump for the Norcat unit.”

Sheriff David Wachendorfer reported, “I have two bills for ratification. One is for an inmate’s stay in Thomas County. The other is for a cracked manifold on one of the Dodge Durangos. The bill for the Durango repair is \$1,012. We started using the new payroll app. I’m excited about it. It’s going to be very good for tracking our hours. What should the overtime hours be? Should it be 42.5 hours?

The time clock system can only be set at either 42.5 hours for overtime or 44 hours. The state has mandated that overtime for law enforcement should be 43 hours.” The Commissioners agreed that the time clocks will need to be set at 42.5 hours for the overtime rate.

Good Samaritan/Sanford Health Center Assistant Administrator Carl Noyes reported, “We have Diederich’s Flooring working on some floors for us. They completed a room and a bathroom. They sent us a bill for materials, labor and installation. The cost will be \$1,375.” The Commissioners approved, but asked Noyes to bring them estimates first in the future.

Road and Bridge Department Supervisor Tracy Soderlund reported, “I have a quote on tubes from Wellborn. We only have one 24” tube left. We need to get more. We will replace a bridge with tubes soon on 500th Road. We are ordering 10 24” tubes, which will cost a total of \$10,710.” The Commissioners approved.

“The bridge west of Clayton is being replaced,” Soderlund explained. “It’s looking pretty good so far. They’ll be putting in concrete soon.”

“We recently bladed behind the hospital and got that area smoothed out, and it looks much better,” Soderlund said. “We are also moving gravel and working on some guard rails on some roads. We are looking to put in reflective posts to replace the guard rail. We have some guys going for their CDLs, and a few have been sick recently. We’re also going to work on a tire for a fire truck for the fire department.”

Emergency Medical Service Director Megan Huntley reported, “I want to know if wages are still the same without

the weighted average overtime system.” The Commissioners explained that the pay will stay the same, \$10 per hour for at home on call, and \$20 per hour when at the station.

“I have arranged to have Sam Demma, the speaker on mental health and bullying, come talk with the students and community on May 19. The students will get to hear him at school during the day, and the general public will get to hear him at The Gateway that evening from 7 to 8 p.m. I received a \$10,000 grant from the GROW Foundation for the event, as well as several donations from around the community.”

Clerk of the District Court Brooke Graham reported, “I want to know what the juror pay is for an upcoming trial. Is it \$25 per day? We are getting a new jury program for our computers called Jury 360. One of the questions to set up the new program was what we pay our jurors per day.” County Attorney Steve Hirsch, County Clerk Diane Zodrow, and the Commissioners all started looking into what juror pay is and when it became what it is. They said they would get back to Graham when they found the information she needs.

Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corporation Director Sharee Dempewolf reported, “The second annual Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 3, at the Decatur Community Junior High Gymnasium.”

“Color Decatur County also wishes to place an 80 foot tall flag pole between the old Pizza Hut and NAPA Auto Parts, north of the big sign the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) will replace. We need grants to get it placed. Letters of support are needed too.”

Zodrow reported that the time clocks are now working better. The phone app has now been introduced as well, and is

working well so far.

The Decatur County Commissioners meet every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon. Meetings are held in the Commissioners’ room on the second floor of the courthouse.

## Courthouse

These transactions were taken from the records in the offices of the Decatur County court clerk, sheriff and register of deeds: **DISTRICT COURT Traffic**

Feb. 9: Daniel Keith Larson, Sussex, Wis., speeding 80 mph in a 65 zone, \$183.

Feb. 19: Gerald Louis Fortune, Augusta, Ark., 80 mph in a 65 zone, \$183.

Feb. 23: Marta B. Pena Marquez, Pilger, Neb., failure to wear seatbelt ages 18 and up, \$30.

Limited Actions Midland Credit Management Inc. v. Pamela K. Scribner, \$4,158 plus costs and interest.

**REGISTER OF DEEDS** Alex and Melissa Hanchera, and Scott and Kristyl Hanchera, to D&L H, LLC., an undivided half interest in and to the NW/4 Sec. 6, T1S R29W. Robert M. Walker also known as Robert Michael Walker to Sean F. Otter, the SW/4 Sec. 7, T5S R26W, and the S/2 NW/4 Sec. 7, T5S R26W.

Robert M. Walker also known as Robert Michael Walker, to McKenna-McKenna Hogs, the SE/4 Sec. 7, T5S R26W.

JAK LLC to Maurice and Deena Zodrow, as joint tenants, not tenants in common, with full rights of survivorship, all of Lot 2, and the N/2 Lot 3, Blk. 5, Original Town, City of Oberlin.

Maurice and Deena Zodrow to David M. and Kala R. Bose, as joint tenants, not as tenants in common, with full rights of survivorship, all of Lot 2, and the N/2 Lot 3, Blk. 5, Original Town, City of Oberlin.

## Sheriff’s Blotter

The Decatur County Sheriff’s Office worked the following calls for the week of Feb. 20 to Feb. 26:

Feb. 20

The Department conducted VIN Inspections on V Ln, investigated a report of runaway juvenile from Hickok Hardware on South Penn Avenue, investigated a report of cattle out at mile marker 220 on U.S. Highway 83, investigated a miscellaneous incident on West Victoria Street, conducted a traffic stop on U.S. Highway 83, conducted a parole contact on West Commercial Street, logged the weather report, and served two summonses.

Feb. 21

The Department assisted with an ambulance run on K-383 near Dresden, investigated an injury in a motor vehicle accident on K-383 near Dresden, served five summonses, answered three phone calls, and conducted two traffic stops within Decatur County.

Feb. 22

The Department investigated a report of cattle out at mile marker 220 on U.S. Highway 83.

Feb. 23

The Department attended a training exercise in Scott City, served a summons, answered a phone call, and conducted two traffic stops within Decatur County.

Feb. 24

The Department assisted with an ambulance run on North Marks Avenue, answered a phone call, and conducted three traffic stops within Decatur County.

Feb. 25

The Department assisted another agency at the Good Samaritan Center on East Ash Street.

Feb. 26

The Department conducted a traffic stop at mile marker 214 on U.S. Highway 83.

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Published each Wednesday by Mullen Newspaper Co., 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Periodicals postage paid at Oberlin, Kan. 67749.  
Official newspaper of Oberlin, Jennings, Norcat, Dresden and Decatur County. Member of the Kansas Press Association  
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EPD'S	BW	WW	MILK	YW
.6	83	28	149	



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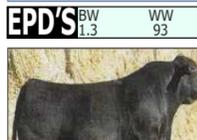
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EPD'S	BW	WW	MILK	YW
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EPD'S	BW	WW	MILK	YW
-3	98	22	191	

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# Norton county



## Kansas Profile – Now That’s Rural: Layne Stafford, murals

BY RON WILSON, DIRECTOR OF THE HUCK BOYD NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

This artist needs to think big. That’s because his proverbial canvas isn’t just a small square on an easel, it might be the side of a building.

Today we’ll meet a rural Kansas man who is creating murals for communities across Kansas and beyond.

Layne Stafford is the artist who has created murals around the state. He grew up in Hill City where his father was a music teacher.

“Creativity was encouraged at our house growing up,” Stafford said. “Our dad’s classroom was next to the art room, so we were exposed to some of that.”

Stafford and his

brother enjoyed drawing. They would fill a sketchbook with pictures they had drawn of athletes or Ghostbusters or Ninja Turtles. When school was out in the summertime, they even took art classes.

Stafford attended K-State where he graduated in art education. He stayed in Manhattan and worked part-time at Amanda Arnold elementary school where the mascot is the Pandas.

“The principal contacted me about doing a painting on the wall of the cafeteria,” Stafford said. Stafford created a painting of a panda, and it was so well

received that he has been asked repeatedly to come back and add on to that painting.

Then parents of a student at the school asked Stafford to create a painting in their daughter’s room. “They said, ‘We would love for her to have a Star Wars mural,’” Stafford said.

He took on the challenge and it turned out beautifully.

“I was doing small projects, playing in a band, and substitute teaching, but I felt that God was saying I should pursue this painting thing,” Stafford said. He chose to go into it full-time.

“The first year was

horrible,” Stafford said. “Then in year two, two or three incredible opportunities came up and the floodgates opened.”

For more than 20 years, Stafford has worked as a freelance muralist and created works for a variety of clients as far away as South Dakota. He typically completes four to five mural projects a year. Some of these are massive, as big as 100 feet wide and 20 feet tall.

Some clients come to him with a specific request. In other cases, he designs the concept himself.

“If the customer gets me the exact size parameters, I can design something to fit,” Stafford said.



*“Small towns want to have something to be proud of,” Stafford said. “I’m thankful if I can be of help, to build town pride and bring something new and fresh.”*

He also verifies the type of surface, such as brick, concrete, or cinder block. Once the design is approved, he lays it out on his computer and then projects it onto the wall where he paints it in place.

Stafford has done several projects in his hometown of Hill City. After one mural was completed, a man told his parents that this was the best thing that had happened in town.

Stafford works with businesses, churches, schools and homes. He has painted murals in cities larger than 50,000 people and in rural towns such as Damar, population 112 people. Now, that’s rural. “Small towns want to have something to be proud of,” Stafford said. “I’m thankful if I can be of help, to build town pride and bring something new and fresh.”

He’s produced welcome signs for several towns,

mascot murals in schools, a baseball themed mural at a Great Bend park, and an inspirational mural at Be Able in Manhattan.

In addition to beautifying communities, Stafford wants his work to serve as an inspiration to others. “That mural will be there long after I’m gone,” Stafford said. “I want my work to be uplifting, to point to something greater. There is creativity in everybody. If I can inspire one person, that is my ‘why.’”

For more information, see [www.laynestafford.com](http://www.laynestafford.com).

This artist needs to think big, because his canvas might be 2,000 square feet in size. We commend Layne Stafford and the communities that use his talents. They are making a difference by brightening and celebrating their communities.

This artist does well, because he sees the big picture.

## Norton County Hospital Board Update

BY ALEYA HUEFTLE, MARKETING AND PR SPECIALIST

Norton County Hospital continues to see positive momentum as teams across the organization work together to strengthen services, improve operations, and invest in the future of local healthcare. Hospital leadership remains in close contact with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts as Dr. Encinas’ licensure process nears finalization, as well as Madison Aspegren, PA. We are still actively searching for a Chief Clinical Officer. These additions will further support the hospital’s commitment to delivering high-quality care close to home.

Several recent successes highlight that commitment. The Respiratory Therapy & Sleep Studies team earned a strong survey result and secured a three-year certification. This is a testament to their hard work and dedication. We would also like to recognize Eva Harrington; her paper on the Viking Pure Cleaner was selected to be presented at a convention in New Orleans in August. Another recognition of

note, Kellen Jacobs and the Physical Therapy Clinic, for their efforts on the RETAINWORKS Project ECHO, were chosen to host a course via Zoom sometime between March/April. The project focuses on training health care workers to help injured or ill patients stay at or return to work. The most recent National In-Patient surveys have shown a positive trend in patient satisfaction in the Hospital. The installation of a new phone system has already improved communication throughout the facility. Plans for the elevator upgrade have been rescheduled for later this year to coordinate with a fire alarm system update. We look to place the new fire alarm system this summer. Once we know the new system is working properly, we will move forward with the elevator.

Patient care activity remains strong across all departments. In January alone, Radiology completed 476 exams, Medical Clinic saw over 1,000 patients, Outpatient Therapy saw 191 patient encounters, and Surgery



Twelve Norton County Hospital staff members attended the EKG session hosted by the Apollo Transport team. The session strengthened clinical confidence, reinforced best practices, and supported the hospital’s mission of delivering exceptional cardiac care.

performed 50 procedures, with volumes already increasing this spring. We are seeing growth in our Pain Management clinics as well. The Laboratory received excellent feedback during a recent consult review. Staff members are also investing in ongoing education, including monthly stroke training through the Kansas Initiative

for Stroke Survival and hands-on clinical training with the Apollo Flight Crew.

Through careful planning, teamwork, and strong community support, Norton County Hospital remains focused on providing dependable, high-quality care for Norton County and the surrounding region.

### Activities at Norton Public Library

**Preschool Storytime** will be held at the Library on Thursday, March 5, 10:15 a.m. Library staff will be sharing stories, songs, games, and a craft. Come join the fun!

**Lego Club for Kids** on Monday, March 9, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Come to the Library to see the Lego Creations on display.

**Art Club for Kids** has been suspended until further notice!

**It’s All About the Books Book Club** will be held at the Library’s Community Room on Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m. The book that will be discussed is “The Honk and Holler Opening Soon” by Billie Letts. All adults are welcome!

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# Norton county

## Homestead Nutrition Project Menu

The HOMESTEAD Nutrition Project serves seniors 60 and older in the 18 counties of Northwest Kansas. The nutrition sites are open Monday through Friday. Meals contain at least 1/3 of the current Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the portions served follow the meal pattern established by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. The meals program is a very flexible program, allowing you to pick the days that you would like to eat. In addition, up to 2 meals can be ordered per person each day.

Persons age 60 and older contribute a suggested donation of \$4.00 per meal for both congregate and home delivery. Persons under age 60 are welcome to eat but must pay the full cost of the meal which is \$7.00. In order to receive home delivered meals, the person must be assessed and determined to be physically homebound, socially homebound, or isolated. Participant contributions are vital in keeping the program running.

Below is the March menu. If you would like future menus, visit your local nutrition site, call the HOMESTEAD Nutrition Project at the Area Agency on Aging, or go to the Agency's website at [www.nwkaaa.com](http://www.nwkaaa.com). Meal reservations need to be made at your local site by 11:00 a.m. the day before you are planning to eat.

Please call HOMESTEAD Nutrition at 1-800-432-7422 for more information. Or locally call the Norton Senior Citizen Community Center at 785-877-5352.

Monday, March 2 - Tater tot casserole, mixed vegetables, bread, strawberries and bananas

Tuesday, March 3 - Oven baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, bread, cinnamon apples

Wednesday, March 4 - Waikiki meatballs, bed of rice, green beans, tropical fruit

Thursday, March 5 - Chicken pot pie, California blend vegetables, biscuit, peaches

Friday, March 6 - Tuna noodle casserole, peas and carrots, bread, fruit cobbler

Monday, March 9 - Chicken patty sandwich, California blend vegetables, bun, emerald pears, cookie

Tuesday, March 10 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, brussels sprout, bread, peaches

Wednesday, March 11 - Chicken pasta primavera, tossed salad, garlic bread, gelatin with fruit

Thursday, March 12 - Ground beef vegetable soup, crackers, mandarin oranges, frosted cake

Friday, March 13 - Fish sandwich, parslid potatoes, mixed vegetables, bun, pineapple

Monday, March 16 - Swiss steak with tomatoes, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, bread, tropical fruit

Tuesday, March 17 - Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, beets, bread, strawberries and bananas

Wednesday, March 18 - Taco burger, lettuce, tomato, cheese, mixed vegetables, bun, gelatin with fruit

Thursday, March 19 - Ham and beans, California blend vegetables, corn bread, cinnamon apples

Friday, March 20 - Cook's Choice

Monday, March 23 - Chicken strips, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, bread, tropical fruit

Tuesday, March 24 - Hamburger patty, lettuce, tomato, onion, macaroni salad, bun, applesauce

Wednesday, March 25 - Chicken and rice casserole, brussels sprout, bread, peaches, cookie

Thursday, March 26 - Beef pot roast in gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned carrots, bread, strawberries and bananas

Friday, March 27 - Baked fish, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges

Monday, March 30 - Little Smokies, macaroni and cheese, catalina blend vegetables, pineapple

Tuesday, March 31 - Teriyaki chicken, bed of rice, broccoli, peaches

## Norton Telegram

### NORTON CITY COUNCIL

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Dale Jacobson presiding. Council members present were Andrew Black, Craig Eveleigh, Gerald Jones, Dale Engelbert and Jim Miller. Council member Jason Jones was absent. Others present were Abigail Horn, Kayla Peterson, Dallas Gosselin, Caryl Hale, Logan Keiswetter, Jeff Wolf, Courtney Kaus and Alex McKenna.

Motion was made by Jim Miller and seconded by Dale Engelbert to approve the February 4, 2026, city council meeting minutes. Vote taken. Motion carried 5-0.

No building permits were presented.

A motion was made by Andrew Black, seconded by Jim Miller to allow Travel and Tourism to put up more brackets around town for welcome banners. Vote taken; motion carried 5-0.

Norton Economic Development Director Dallas Gosselin gave a report on his trip to Topeka for legislative days.

Caryl Hale stated she is picking up an old project through the Blue Cross Blue Shield pathways program for a sidewalk replacement grant. Caryl stated with this project they are looking at doing sidewalk replacement in a lower income housing area. In order for them to proceed, they would need to partner with the city and have the city sign a pledge. It was decided for council to review and sign the pledge at the next council meeting.

The following old business items were addressed: Logan reported they are still waiting on Nex-Tech to remove their line from the poles before they can relocate them to be used for lighting at the impound lot. Code Inspector Jeff Wolf reported both property abatements at 709 N First and 315 W Taft are continuing to make progress. Jeff stated he would like to review both properties again at the next council meeting. Logan reported everything is ready for the handicap parking light at Travis Field, but he is out of the size of pole needed so they are waiting on the shipment of poles to come in.

A motion was made by Jim Miller, seconded by Andrew Black to adopt Resolution No. 2-2026 A Resolution Establishing a City Council Meeting Camera and Video Posting Policy. Vote taken; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Gerald Jones, seconded by Dale Engelbert to adopt Resolution No. 4-2026 A Resolution Authorizing the Abatement of Conditions Under the Environmental Code as to Property Within the City of Norton, Kansas. Gerald noted this is for the property located at 206 W Pearl and 428 S First. Vote taken; motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Gerald Jones, seconded by Craig Eveleigh to adopt Resolution No. 5-2026 A Resolution Authorizing the Abatement of Conditions Under the Environmental Code as to Property Within the City of Norton, Kansas. Gerald noted this is for the property located at 803 N First. Vote taken; motion carried 5-0.

Jim Miller reported the January bill for power from Prairie Land was \$138,308.64, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) bill was \$10,755 and the Southwestern Power Association (SPA) bill was \$2,363.

Dale Engelbert reported from the sales tax ad hoc committee meeting. Dale scheduled another sales tax ad hoc meeting at 4:00 p.m. on February 24, 2026.

Craig Eveleigh reminded everyone of the upcoming parks committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. on February 19, 2026.

A motion was made by Andrew Black, seconded by Gerald Jones for the mayor, council, city attorney and city clerk to enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for a period of 5 minutes concluding at 6:19 p.m. Vote taken; motion carried 5-0.

Council resumed regular session at 6:19 p.m.

Motion was made by Andrew Black and seconded by Dale Engelbert to approve Appropriating Ordinance #4 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Jim Miller and seconded by Dale Engelbert to adjourn. Vote taken; motion carried 5-0. Council adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

## Norton Municipal Court Report

Court/Plea Date January 5, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest November 19, 2025. Jess Waddell, Sutton, NE. Charge: Speeding 16 mph over in school zone, 36 in 20. Plea: No contest. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$162.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$252.00.

Court/Plea Date January 5, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest October 27, 2025. Jason Ryan, Saint Louis, MO. Charge: Speeding 10 mph over in school zone, 30 in 20. Plea: No contest. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$95.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$185.00.

Court Plea Date January 5, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest November 21, 2025. Angela Sjogren, Belleville. Charge: Speeding 13 mph over in school zone, 33 in 20. Plea: No contest. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$126.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$216.00.

Court Plea Date September 8, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest September 8, 2025. Chelsea Harris, Norton. Charge: Speeding 18 mph over in school zone, 38 in 20. Plea: Guilty. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$90.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$180.00.

Court/Plea Date January 6, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest August 21, 2025. Tristin Vaughn, Norton. Charge: Speeding 10 mph over, 40 in 30. Plea: No contest. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$45.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$140.00.

Court/Plea Date January 7, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest October 22, 2025. Douglas Davis, Phillipsburg. Charge: Speeding 14 mph over in school zone, 34 in 20. Plea: No contest. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$143.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$233.00.

Court/Plea Date January 8, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest November 17, 2025. Clinton Moffit, Hickory Flat, MS. Charge: Speeding 19 mph over in school zone, 39 in 20. Plea: No contest. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$198.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$288.00.

Court/Plea Date January 8, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest December 4, 2025. Jorge Ortiz, Garden City. Charge: Speeding 10 mph over in school zone, 30 in 20. Plea: No contest. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$90.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$180.00.

Court/Plea Date January 9, 2026 - Date of ticket or arrest January 6, 2026. Sheldon Ganstrom, Hays. Charge: Speeding 12 mph over in school zone, 32 in 20. Plea: Guilty. Found: Guilty. Sentence: Fines \$114.00, court cost \$90.00, total fine \$204.00.

## Recent Accidents

Recent accidents reported from the Norton County Sheriff's Office.

On February 15, at 18:10, a white 2005 Chev C15 Pickup, being driven by Mathew Higgins, 44, of Oxford, NE, was northbound on K283 when a deer entered the roadway. Mathew was unable to avoid a collision and hit the deer. There were no injuries. Investigating officer was Austin Hager.

## More Norton County news on page 14

### GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Kansas Noxious Weed Law K.S.A. 2-1314 et seq requires all persons who own or supervise land in Kansas to control and eradicate all weeds declared noxious by legislative action. The weeds declared noxious are: field bindweed, musk thistle, Johnsongrass, bur ragweed, Canada thistle, sericea lespedeza, leafy spurge, hoary cress, quackgrass, Russian knapweed, kudzu and pignut.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to every person who owns or supervises land in Norton County that noxious weeds growing or found on such land shall be controlled and eradicated. Control is defined as preventing the production of viable seed and the vegetative spread of the plant.

### FAILURE TO OBSERVE THIS NOTICE MAY RESULT IN THE COUNTY:

(1.) Serving a legal notice requiring control of the noxious weeds within a minimum of five days. Failure to control the noxious weeds within the time period allowed may result in the county treating the noxious weeds at the landowners expense and placing a lien on the property if the bill is not paid within 30 days or,  
(2.) Filing criminal charges for non-compliance. Conviction for non-compliance may result in a fine of \$100 per day of non-compliance with a maximum fine of \$1500.

The public is also hereby notified that it is a violation of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to barter, sell or give away infested nursery stock or livestock feed unless the feed is fed on the farm where grown or sold to a commercial processor that will destroy the viability of the noxious weed seed. Custom harvesting machines must be labeled with a label provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture and must be free of all weed seed and litter when entering the State and when leaving a field infested with noxious weeds.

Additional information may be obtained from the Norton County Noxious Weed Department or by contacting the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502.

**Did you know that failure to control your noxious weeds will cause you to lose your FSA payments?**

## Pancake Supper SUNDAY, MARCH 8



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**NORCATUR COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
5:00-7:00 P.M.

# Rawlins county

## Mind and Body Tone keeping people fit

BY ROSALIE ROSS



Mind, Body and Tone members show off their muscles and appreciation for Toni Culwell after a hard workout. Photo Submitted By: Toni Culwell.

A new business in Atwood, Mind and Body Tone, is growing by sweat and barbells as a fitness center under the leadership of owner Toni Culwell.

Her preparation began as a Coach in Colby at CoreFit for two years. She did eight years high intensity workouts there prior to that.

Toni began her business in a small one-room building off Highway 25 in July of 2024 with five clients who sincerely wanted a fitness program for work outs.

“Word spread and we maxed out space,” Toni said “Our walls were bulging. We began searching for larger quarters and secured sufficient space in the old cheese plant last October.

“We now have six classes, five high intensity cross-fit style workouts and three times a week we have low impact classes.

Four other women are trained to be coaches. Classes last about 45 minutes. Anyone is welcome to just walk in and check us out.”

Equipment includes full rig, barbells, dumb bells, kettle bells, medicine balls, rowers, bikes, climbing ropes, and more. Workouts are under supervision of a coach.

Memberships include drop in and try it, membership punch card, monthly membership, or drop in as personal time permits.

Entrance is by the south garage door that is open during class time five days a week.

Classes begin at 5:30 a.m. then 6:14 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 4:30 p.m and 6 p.m. All classes are Monday through Friday except low impact which are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Daily attendance is not required.

## McDonald News

BY KATHY BANISTER

The weather the past week was more like a winter month with chilly temperatures most days with a few exceptions with warm, balmy temperatures. A few farmers were spotted with tractors in fields pulling fertilizer tanks to start the annual ritual of preparing farm ground for the upcoming planting season.

High school sports dominated the scene in preparing for which teams would advance to the finals in Sub-State which are rapidly approaching. This past Monday evening found the Cheylin Gym filled with Cougars Boys pitted against Golden Plains in the beginning preliminaries. Cheylin won against the Bulldogs

with a score of 38-32 which secured them a spot in the semi-finals. The Cougars Boys played this past Saturday at Sharon Springs facing Wallace County but, alas, the Cougar season came to a halt as they lost their bid to continue onto to Sub-State. Congrats to the Cougars for making it this far and for a fairly good season. The Cheylin Girls, on the other hand, had a first round bye and will play March 2 in their bid to get to the Sub-State finals. Good luck to the Cheylin Lady Cougars!

Kathy Banister visited Cherry Bell of Colby this past Tuesday afternoon and was invited to play with Bingo with her and her friends.

## NEED A RIDE?



• The Rawlins County Shuttle offers convenient transportation to anybody in Rawlins County. The shuttle travels all over Rawlins County and is free to county residents.

• 24 hour notice is greatly appreciated, but not completely necessary. Rides are given on a first come first serve basis with no special designations for priority trips such as medical or other appointments.

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*This project is funded in part by the KDOT Public Transportation Program.*

Enrollment has grown from five to over 50 women and men whose ages range from high schoolers to a few 70 year-olds. “We have something for all skill levels,” Toni said. “We work to build healthy relationships between athletes and their coach as well as between fellow members.”

The Culwell family moved to Atwood in 2011. Toni’s husband, Aaron, is a rancher in Cheyenne County. They have five school-age children. Dorian, Drew, Kaiane, John and William. Toni also has been the girls high school basketball team’s assistant coach the last two seasons.

“Mind and Body Tone is an expanding business with a goal of creating healthier lifestyles and connections to our community,” Toni said.

## Pinochle Friends

Tuesday Pinochle Friends met at Prairie Plaza with John Dirks and Effie Fields as hosts. Winners were Leta Focke, Shirley Coleman, A.J. Hurst and Virgie Burk. Leta Focke won the traveling prize. March hostesses will be Lorraine Wurm and Virgie Burk.

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## City Council Views Contracts

BY ROSALIE ROSS

Atwood City Council members reviewed several contracts during their regular meeting Feb. 19, according to the unofficial minutes.

The agreement with Tallgrass Interstate Gas Transmission was reviewed. They were concerned about the city’s liability for the line on South 7th Street. The city will own the infrastructure once construction is completed. Responsibility for any repairs should the gas line impact the proposed water, sewer and street. David Blau, engineer with Miller and Associates estimated the cost of relocating the gas line to be about \$300,000.

City Attorney Charles Peckham provided a copy of the draft agreement with Two Homes LLC to each council member. It was regarding the crossing of the TallGrass gas line and responsibility for any potential damage to the transmission line. Following discussion, the council determined that a special meeting with Two Homes LLC is necessary to further review the agreements and the development plans for South 7th Street.

A bid opening was held for the Kansas Water Office Grant Water Project Jan. 17. A total of five bids were submitted. Blau reviewed the bid tabulation report and itemized bid details from each contractor. The lowest bid was submitted by J Corp in the amount of \$2,215,870. The total grant award was \$2,305,000. After design and site observation expenses, slightly over \$2 million remains available for construction. Acceptance of the lowest

bid would result in a shortfall of approximately \$180,000. The council agreed to hold a special meeting to approve the change order and formally award the bid.

Brian Bowles with the Kansas Rural Water Association presented the Energy Assessment report to the Council. His group provides this assessment free to members with funding through USDA Rural Development. His report evaluated both current and historical energy usage and identified opportunities to reduce energy consumption and lower operating costs. Superintendent Rick Kramer has begun implementing recommendations, including upgrades to light fixtures and adjustment to pumping schedules.

Clerk Dana Philpott presented the annual USDA report to the council and they authorized her to sign it and send it to USDA.

Council voted to adopt Ordinance 914 which concerns home occupations, accessory buildings and height of structures.

Clerk Philpott reported that she received notice from the city’s software provider that processing fees will be increasing. Credit card third party processing fees will increase to four percent per transaction. Fees for automatic payments drafted from a customer checking account will increase from 45 cents to \$2.50 per account if absorbed by the city or \$3.00 per month if passed on to the customer. Currently, the city absorbs the 45 cents; however with the increase it would be approximately \$885 per

month. Council agreed to absorb the fee in April, but in May the customer will have the responsibility if they choose to continue an automatic withdrawal.

City Superintendent Kramer reported that his crew had been able to work outside and at the pool. Water well depths are consistent.

Council woman Diana Tongish reported that she and Roddy Dill attended the Kansas Association Regional Development Organizational meeting. She further said the Atwood Library’s book sale raised a thousand dollars and was the best sale to date. The library received a grant for a 3D printer for the school library. They also received a Dane G. Hansen grant for movies at the theater on the last Sunday of the month to show classic movies.

Councilman Dietrich Kastens reported that the firetruck needs to be worked on either here if possible or in Salina.

The mayor scheduled a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. March 3 to review the water project change order and bid award and to discuss the gas transmission agreement with Two Homes LLC.

Mayor Janet Stice conducted the meeting which included approval of the January minutes and approval of paying of the bills. Council members Dietrich Kastens, Dakota Dunker, Tyrel Prideaux and Diana Tongish were present. Council member Sandy Mulligan was absent.

The next regular meeting of Atwood City Council is set for 7 p.m. March 19 at City Hall.

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Annual subscription rates are \$45 in Rawlins, Cheyenne, Decatur, Sherman and Thomas counties, Kansas, and Hitchcock, Dundy and Red Willow counties, Nebraska; \$52 elsewhere in Kansas, \$59 out of state, rates above include access to e-edition; \$45 anywhere in the world for e-edition only.

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**Kansas Press Association**

# Rawlins county

## Recent Arrests

BY KATI LATULIP

Matthew Allen Morse, 33 was arrested Feb. 25 by the Rawlins County Sheriff's Department, on suspicion of crimes related to child sexual abuse.

According to charging documents filed Feb. 25, Morse is charged with the following:

- Count 1- (Rape) On or about the 1st day of June 2023 to the 31st day of July 2024, said Defendant, at and within the County of Rawlins, State of Kansas, and there being, contrary to the statutes of the State of Kansas unlawfully, willfully, feloniously, and knowingly engaged in sexual intercourse with a victim, to wit: R.R., a child under fourteen (14) years of age, the defendant was more than 18 years of age. In violation of: K.S.A. 21-5503(a)(3) and (b)(2), an off-grid person felony.

- Count 2- (Rape) On or about the 1st day of June 2023 to the 31st day of July 2024, said Defendant, at and within the County of Rawlins, State of Kansas, and there being, contrary to the statutes of the State of Kansas unlawfully, willfully, feloniously, and knowingly engaged in sexual intercourse with a victim, to wit: R.R., a child under fourteen (14) years of age, the defendant was more than 18 years of age. In violation of: K.S.A. 21-5503(a)(3) and (b)(2), an off-grid person felony.

- Count 3- (Aggravated indecent liberties with a child) On or about the 1st day of June 2023 to the 31st day of July 2024, said Defendant, at and within the County of Rawlins, State of Kansas, and there being, contrary to the statutes of the State of Kansas unlawfully willfully engaged in lewd fondling or touching done with the intent to satisfy the sexual desires of Matthew Allen Morse who was 18 years old or older and the victim R.R. was under the age of 14 years old. In violation of: K.S.A. 21-5506(b)(1),(c)(1) (3), an off-grid person felony.

- Count 4- (Aggravated indecent liberties with a child) On or about the 12th day of March 2023 to the 11th day of March 2024, said Defendant, at and within the County of Rawlins, State of Kansas, and there being, contrary to the statutes of the State of Kansas unlawfully willfully engaged in lewd fondling or touching done with the intent to satisfy the sexual desires of Matthew Allen Morse who was 18 years old or older and the victim S.R. was under the age of 14 years old. In violation of: K.S.A. 21-5506(b)(1),(c)(1) (3), an off-grid person felony.

- Count 5- (Aggravated criminal sodomy) On or about the 1st day of June 2023 to the 31st day of July 2024, said Defendant, at and within the County of Rawlins, State of Kansas, and there being, contrary to the statutes of the State of Kansas unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly engaged in an act of sodomy with a child, to wit: S.R., who is under the age of 14 years old. In violation of: K.S.A. 21-5504(a)(3),(c)(1) (B), an off-grid person felony.

- Count 6- (Sexual exploitation of a child) On or about the 1st day of June 2023 to the 31st day of July 2024, said Defendant, at and within the County of Rawlins, State of Kansas, and there being, contrary to the statutes of the State of Kansas unlawfully and knowingly possessed a visual depiction of a child under 18 years of age shown engaging in sexually explicit conduct with intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interest of the offender or any other person. In violation of K.S.A. 21-5510(b)(3),(b)(1)(A), a severity level 5-person felony, the penalty for which is up to 136 months in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections and a fine of no more than \$300,000.

The case is being prosecuted by Rawlins County Attorney Christopher Rohr. Morse is represented by court-appointed attorneys Leslie Beims, St. Francis, and Justin Barrett, Colby.

A status conference is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. April 21 at the Rawlins County Courthouse.

Morse is currently being held on a \$1.5m cash or surety bond in the Rawlins County Jail. The investigation remains ongoing.

Arrest and charge information is public record under Kansas law. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Rawlins County Dispatch Reports

FEB. 16-22

Rawlins County Sheriff's Office	Rawlins County/ Atwood EMS
1- Abandoned 911 Officer Sent	3- Medical
1- Animal Complaint	1- Test Page
1- Assist Other Agency	McDonald EMS
1- BOLO	1- Information Only
1- Civil	1- Test Page
1- Deer	Atwood City Fire
1- Domestic	1- Controlled Burn
1- Erratic Driver	Herndon Fire Department
1- Fire	2- Controlled Burns
1- Follow UP	2- Fire
1- Lost Property	1- Test Page
1- Motorist Assist	Atwood Rural Fire Department
1- New Inmate	1- Controlled Burn
6- Paper Service	1- Fire
1- Suicide Attempt	1- Fire Assist
3- Traffic Stops	1- Test Page
11- Vin Inspections	McDonald Fire
McDonald Police Department	1- Fire Assist
5- Traffic Stops	1- Test Page
Atwood Police Department	Dispatch
1- BOLO	1- Abandoned 911
1- Fire	1- Alarm Contact Made
1- Identity Theft	1- Cattle Out
1- Information Only	1- Information Only
1- Motor Vehicle Accident	1- Test 911 Call
4- Traffic Stops	
1- Welfare Check	

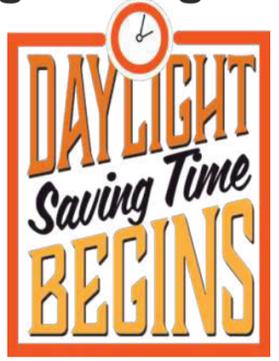
## Clocks spring forward as Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend

BY JULIE THAYER

Residents across Kansas and much of the nation will lose an hour of sleep this weekend as daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Clocks will "spring forward" one hour, meaning 2 a.m. will become 3 a.m. The time change brings longer evening daylight hours but darker mornings as communities adjust to the seasonal shift.

Daylight saving time is observed in most states from March through early November. The practice was first widely adopted during World War I as a way to conserve energy. Today, supporters say the time change can help reduce energy use and encourage outdoor activity during extended evening daylight, while critics argue it disrupts sleep schedules and daily



routines.

Local officials often remind residents to use the time change as an opportunity to check smoke detector batteries and review emergency preparedness plans.

The time change may also temporarily affect sleep patterns, particularly for children and early risers. Health experts recommend going to bed slightly earlier in the days leading up to the transition and maintaining consistent sleep routines to ease adjustment.

## Hit the sweet (potato) spot with homemade bread



Many people have a passion for baking. Baking can be a rewarding hobby and fill a home with an aroma that's unique, welcoming and instantly identifiable.

There's no shortage of options when the desire to bake arises. Homemade bread is a go-to among baking enthusiasts, who can whip up a loaf of this "Sweet Potato Bread" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

### Sweet Potato Bread Makes 1 loaf

- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 cup cooked and mashed sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup shelled chopped pecans or walnuts

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Coat a 9- by 5-inch loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine sugar and oil; beat well. Add eggs, one at a time and beat between each addition. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Stir flour mixture into egg mixture alternately with water. Stir in mashed sweet potatoes and chopped nuts.
3. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan. Bake for about one hour, or until a cake tester inserted into the center of the bread comes out clean.
4. Cool in the pan for 5 minutes and turn out onto a wire rack to cool further. Slice and serve with maple syrup and whipped cream.

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# Sherman county

## Goodland Regional Medical Center Board Receives "Perfect Harmony" Painting Donation

Goodland, KS — Goodland Regional Medical Center (GRMC) was honored to receive a beautiful and meaningful gift during a special presentation to the GRMC Board. Kin Huang's original painting, "Perfect Harmony," was presented with a warm reception and heartfelt appreciation from Board President Greg Cure and the entire GRMC Board of Directors.

The evening was filled with gratitude, reflection, and celebration. We extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the presentation so memorable.

Special guests included Jack and Linda Lucas, as well as Dale and Jacque Schields. Both Jack and Dale dedicated many years of service to GRMC, contributing greatly to the hospital's history and success. During the presentation, Dale shared



meaningful words from Kin, adding depth and personal connection to the occasion.

The event also honored the legacy of Kin's husband, Ying, who faithfully served GRMC for 43 years before retiring as Lab Director in 2006. Ying passed away in 2019, but his commitment and service to the hospital remain an important part of GRMC's story. His legacy, combined with Kin's extraordinary

artistic gift, made the evening especially significant.

The painting, titled "Perfect Harmony," was created at the request of CEO Lucretia Stargell, who in March 2025 asked Kin if she would consider creating a special piece for the hospital lobby. Kin graciously agreed.

According to Kin, each element within the artwork carries deep symbolism representing:

- Education and

- Knowledge
- Longevity and Resilience
- Purity and Integrity
- Unlimited Resources and Prosperity

Kin shared her heartfelt belief that this rural hospital will continue to prosper under the leadership of CEO Lucretia Stargell and the guidance of the GRMC Board for many days to come.

Goodland Regional Medical Center is deeply grateful for this meaningful contribution, which will serve as a lasting symbol of harmony, hope, and continued growth for the organization and the communities it serves.

For more information, please contact:

Jessica Kannady  
Marketing & Community Educator  
Director  
Goodland Regional Medical Center

## Fort Wallace symposium March 14 "From Fort Wallace to the Little Bighorn"

On Saturday, March 14, the Fort Wallace Museum is hosting its annual symposium reflecting the 150th anniversary of the pivotal events of 1876.

With the theme, "From Fort Wallace to the Little Bighorn" speakers will address the connections between the Post and the Battle of the Little Bighorn, in which George Armstrong Custer and more than 200 men in his command were killed in action. Many of the soldiers in the 7th U.S. Cavalry had served in Kansas, most notably Myles W. Keogh, the Irishman who had commanded Fort Wallace from 1866-1867. Only weeks after the battle, James B. "Wild Bill" Hickok was killed in Deadwood, Dakota Territory. He had served as a constable in Monticello, Kan.; a marshal in Abilene; and as a scout for Fort Harker.

Memorial Association President Jayne Humphrey Pearce said that the symposium will be unique in that it is a "hybrid event."

"With two of our presenters coming to us from South Carolina and New Jersey," she said, "we thought why not give everyone the opportunity to take advantage of this technology. So people can attend in person or virtually."

One advantage to attending in person is the taco bar provided by Virginia Renner.

Speakers include award-winning author Craig Crease who will share "Incidents in the Amazing Life of James Butler Hickok." Craig is the author of The Wanderer: James Butler Hickok and the American West, which is available in the museum gift shop. He will be joining the conference remotely.

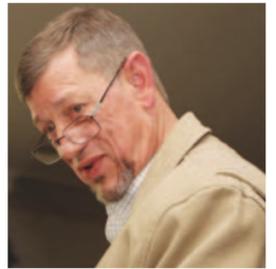
Also joining remotely will be Joe Creaden whose topic is "To Garry Owen and Glory: Myles Keogh and the 7th Ride into the Valley of Death." Joe is a longtime board member of the Order of the Indian Wars (now the American Frontier History Association) as well as the Little Bighorn Association.

Returning to Fort Wallace from his home in Oklahoma is award-winning author, Dee Cordry. Dee's topic is "Yellow Nose: Southern Cheyenne Warrior and the Little Bighorn." Dee's book, The Children of White Thunder, is available in the museum gift shop.

The talented and versatile living history presenter Marla Matkin brings her knowledge and dramatic ability



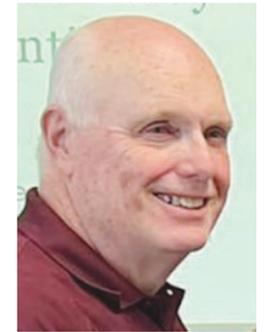
Dee Cordry



Dennis K. Clark



Marla Matkin



Joe Creaden



Craig Crease

to the conference with "The Widows: Faithful Standbys of the Little Bighorn." Marla's children's books, Custer's Mouse and A Dragon's Tale are available in the museum gift shop.

Dennis K. Clark, namesake of our Distinguished Lecture Series, will be joining us from Leavenworth and will present, "The Critical Moment at the Little Bighorn: Keogh, Harrington, and Harrington."

Online registration is available at ftwallace.com or by contacting the Fort Wallace Museum at 785-891-3564. The symposium begins at 9 a.m. MDT with doors opening at 8 a.m. Members of the Guardians of Fort Wallace receive a discount and memberships are available at the door.



**The Goodland Star-News**  
(USPS No. 222-460 ISSN 0893-0562)  
Member: Kansas Press Association  
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association  
National Newspaper Association  
e-mail: [star.news@nwkansas.com](mailto:star.news@nwkansas.com)

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Published every Wednesday except the days observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by Mullen Newspaper Co. at 104 W. US Hwy 24, Goodland, Kan., 67735.  
Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News,  
104 W. US Hwy. 24, Goodland, Kan. 67735.  
TELEPHONE: (785) 890-2338. Editorial e-mail: [star.news@nwkansas.com](mailto:star.news@nwkansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodland.ads@nwkansas.com](mailto:goodland.ads@nwkansas.com)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$32; six months, \$49; 12 months, \$84. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$42; six months, \$59; 12 months, \$94 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day.  
Annual subscription rates include access to e-edition; \$84 anywhere in the world for e-edition only.

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We'll be serving pancakes, waffles, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee!

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# Sherman county

## Fort Hays Tech | Northwest celebrates ribbon cutting and facility dedication *Tiny Tigers Child Care and Schears Family Center for Innovation & Design*

Fort Hays Tech | Northwest celebrated a major milestone today with the official ribbon cutting of the Tiny Tigers Child Care Facility and the dedication of the Schears Family Center for Innovation & Design. Community members, students, faculty, staff, donors, legislators, and regional partners gathered to mark the occasion and tour the newly completed facilities.

The Tiny Tigers Child Care Facility was developed to expand access to high-quality early childhood education in northwest Kansas while serving as a hands-on learning laboratory for students in the college's Child Care Specialist program.

"This facility represents more than just a building - it represents opportunity," said Tara Neitzel-Simmonds, Child Care Specialist Instructor at Fort Hays Tech | Northwest. "Our students gain real-world experience in a professional setting while children in our community receive nurturing, developmentally appropriate care. It strengthens families today while preparing the workforce of tomorrow."

The project was made possible through generous support from Dane G. Hansen Foundation, represented at the event by Gennifer Golden House, and the Patterson Family Foundation, as well as continued investment in technical education by the Kansas State Legislature. Funding from the state's Student Success initiatives and Base Operating Grant program helped strengthen the college's ability to expand workforce training and support critical infrastructure needs.

Federal and State representation were also present, with Reid Petty, Southwest Kansas District Director for U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, and Kansas Senator Rick Billinger, joining the celebration in support of regional workforce development and community partnerships.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Kansas State Legislature," said Dr. Corey Isbell, President of Fort Hays Tech | Northwest. "The Student Success Grant allow institutions like ours to respond to workforce demands and serve rural Kansas in meaningful ways. Combined with Dane G. Hansen Foundation & Patterson Family Foundation partnerships, this support makes projects like today's celebration possible."

College leadership also recognized the partnership

that brought the facilities from concept to completion. The project was designed in collaboration with GMCN Architects, with lead architect Deziree Miller guiding the vision and design process, and constructed by Miller's Construction, Matt Miller, Owner.

"We extend sincere appreciation to GMCN Architects and Deziree Miller for their thoughtful design work, and to Miller's Construction for delivering a high-quality facility that will serve students and families for years to come," Isbell added. "This project reflects what strong partnerships can accomplish."

The celebration also included the formal dedication of the Schears Family Center for Innovation & Design, named in recognition of the Schears family's longstanding commitment to Fort Hays Tech | Northwest. Ben Schears served as President of Fort Hays Tech | Northwest from July 2016 to July 2025. For many years, the Schears Family demonstrated vision, leadership, and unwavering support for the institution and its students. Their family's connection to the college reflects a genuine belief in the value of technical education and the opportunities it creates for individuals and communities.

The naming of the center honors not only their dedication, but a legacy of service and partnership that has helped strengthen the institution and expand opportunity for generations of students. Their continued encouragement and belief in the college's mission have played an important role in shaping its growth and future direction.

"Education transforms lives and communities," said Ben Schears. "Our family believes in investing in opportunities that empower students to innovate, create, and pursue meaningful careers. We are honored to see this center serve as a hub for innovation and workforce development."

Dr. Tisa Mason, President of Fort Hays State University, addressed attendees and spoke about the continued strength of the affiliation between the institutions.

"The affiliation between Fort Hays State University and Fort Hays Tech | Northwest continues to expand access, opportunity, and regional impact," Mason said. "These new facilities are powerful examples of what can happen when higher education, philanthropy, state

leadership, and community partners work together to meet local needs."

Following remarks and ribbon cuttings led by the Goodland Ambassadors, guests toured both facilities and visited with faculty, staff, and students about the programs housed within the new spaces.

The addition of Tiny Tigers and the Schears Family Center for Innovation & Design reinforces Fort Hays Tech | Northwest's commitment to hands-on, career-focused education while strengthening services that support families, workforce readiness, and economic growth across Northwest Kansas.



### BULLS OF *the Prairie*

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### School Calendar February March 4-10, 2026

• Goodland Junior-Senior High School • West Elementary School • North Elementary School • Fort Hays Tech Northwest athletics

 <p><b>HAYDEN OUTDOORS REAL ESTATE</b></p> <p><i>Proud To Call Goodland Home.</i></p> <p>Serving Landowners with Trusted Expertise in Farm, Ranch &amp; Recreational Real Estate. <b>Visit us at 1401 Main St.</b> www.HaydenOutdoors.com</p>	<p>Wednesday: HS Basketball 3A semi-finals (girls)</p> <p>Thursday: 6 p.m.: 3rd grade concert in auditorium</p> <p>Friday: HS Basketball Sub-State finals (3A boys) at Larned 4 p.m.: Dr. Seuss Night at North Elementary</p> <p>Saturday: HS Basketball Sub-State (girls) at Larned</p> <p>Monday: 6 p.m.: Board of Education meeting</p>	<p>Fort Hays Tech Northwest athletics:</p> <p>Wed., Mar 04, 1 &amp; 3 p.m. MT: Women's Softball VS Barton Community College here at Tiger Softball Complex</p> <p>Wed., Mar 04, 5:30 p.m.: Women's Basketball VS Hutchinson Community College at Max Jones Field House</p> <p>Wed., Mar 04, 7:30 p.m.: Men's Basketball VS Hutchinson Community College</p> <p>Fri., Mar 06, TBA: Women's Wrestling AT NJCAA Women's Wrestling Championships</p> <p>Fri., Mar 06, TBA: Men's Wrestling AT NJCAA Wrestling Championships</p> <p>Sat., Mar 07: Shooting Sports AT NCTA Invite, North Platte, NE</p> <p>Sat., Mar 07, 12 &amp; 2 p.m. MT: Women's Softball AT Colby Community College</p> <p>Mon., Mar 09 1 &amp; 3 p.m. MT: Women's Softball VS Dakota College at Bottineau here at Tiger Softball Complex</p>
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# Thomas county

## Colby couple selected as Master Farm Family

K-STATE EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Six couples will be honored on March 13 as the 2026 class of Kansas Master Farm Families in recognition of their leadership in agriculture, environmental stewardship and service to their communities.

The statewide awards program is in its 99th year and is sponsored by K-State Extension and Kansas Farmer Magazine.

This year's honorees are:

- Dean and Marlene Davis, Maple Hill.
- David and Sheila Govort, Cunningham.
- Garry and Kathy Holloway, Kincaid.
- Caleb and Shanda Mattix, Colby.
- Keith and Connie Miller, Great Bend.
- Roger and Elizabeth Ploeger, Morrill.

The annual awards banquet will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 13 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan.



### Caleb and Shanda Mattix

Caleb grew up in Southeast Kansas, and as a youth worked on his grandfather's farm and for other farmers and ranchers. Shanda was raised on the family cattle operation near Colby. They met while attending Kansas State University, both graduating in 2007: Caleb with an animal science degree, Shanda with degrees in social work and equine science.

They married in 2009, and soon thereafter partnered with Shanda's mother Sue to carry on the Draper Family commercial cattle herd, upon their losing Shanda's father Bill to cancer in 2004. Shanda represents the 5th generation of the family to raise cattle in Northwest Kansas.

Today, they run cow-calf pairs, selling their beef through normal marketing channels, and

direct to consumers under the M Arrow Ranch brand.

Shanda is the equine program director at Colby Community College. She teaches the majority of equine courses there, and manages the 45-head herd of college-owned horses. She also serves on the Kansas Horse Council Board of Directors and the national board of the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association.

In addition to his responsibilities on the ranch, Caleb owns a small agriculture construction, welding and contracting business. Both he and Shanda are deeply involved in Farm Bureau activities on the local and state levels. In 2021, they and their young children, Morgan and Rawlins, were recognized as a Kansas Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year.

Community involvement and support is paramount to the Mattix family. They are involved in numerous community activities, including the Colby Planning and Zoning Committee and the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau; and in 2019, they founded the Prairie Barn Market, where handmade and vintage product vendors from throughout the Midwest come to Colby to showcase their wares.

## Colby Community College celebrates TRIO Day



Colby Community College Student Support Services celebrated National TRIO Day on Feb. 26 in the CCC cafeteria to highlight how federal TRIO programs impact student success through expanding educational opportunities.

Established under the Higher Education Act of 1965, TRIO programs create a comprehensive educational pipeline that supports students from middle school through post-baccalaureate study. The programs increase access to college and degree completion for low-income and first-generation students, as well as individuals with disabilities.

Colby Community College first received its Student Support Services grant in 1990 and has successfully renewed it every five years since. During that time, 7,175 students

have benefited from program support.

Funded on a five-year cycle, Student Support Services provides academic tutoring, personal counseling, financial aid guidance, and mentoring. The program helps students overcome social and cultural barriers, persist to graduation, and successfully transfer to four-year institutions.

The program is led by Director Lisa Stithem, with support from Educational Program Specialist Samantha Ohnoutka and Transfer and Advising Specialist Jade Inlow. On Feb. 26, they handed out information and prizes to students while they came to the cafeteria for lunch.

For more information on Student Support Services, contact the office at (785) 460-5510 or [studentsupportservices@colbycc.edu](mailto:studentsupportservices@colbycc.edu).



Student Support Services Program Director Lisa Stithem, Educational Program Specialist Samantha Ohnoutka, and Transfer and Advising Specialist Jade Inlow. /courtesy photo



Samantha Ohnoutka and Jade Inlow visit with a student at a table in the cafeteria during the Student Support Services celebration of National Trio Day. /courtesy photo

SAY HELLO!

**DRAVEN JAYCE DAWN STOUT**  
BORN ON FEBRUARY 25, 2026  
to Casey Stout and Teryn Brummett of Oakley, Kansas.  
He joins two proud brothers, Creyton Stout, 5, and Finn Stout, 3.

## CCC hosting annual bull sale

Colby Community College will host its annual Bull Production Sale and Seminar on Friday, March 20, at the Beef Unit on the college farm at 2002 County Road 23, east of Colby.

Prospective buyers are welcome to view cattle at their convenience leading up to the sale.

The event schedule includes:

- 10 a.m. – Bull Sale Seminar
- Noon – Complimentary lunch
- 1 p.m. – Bull Sale

The sale will feature yearlings and 18-month-old bulls from 17 consignors, along with home-raised heifers. The eight breeds represented are Angus, Balancer/Gelbvieh, Charolais, Red Angus, Salers, SimAngus, and Simmental.

Online bidders must be registered with DVAAuction before the event begins.

For more information, contact Beef Program Director Adalaide Kline at 785-460-5465 or [adalaide.kline@colbycc.edu](mailto:adalaide.kline@colbycc.edu).

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**94th Birthday Card Shower**

Help us celebrate Betty Finley-Wolfe's 94th birthday with a card shower!

**March 14, 2026**

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Betty Wolfe  
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**HAPPY 65<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

JOIN US ON  
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# Thomas county

## Colby Police Department

### MEDIA INCIDENT LOG

**February 26**  
 2:10 a.m. Security Check, Cornerstone AG, LLC (South), 2168 Thomas County Rd Q.  
 2:18 a.m. Security Check, Hampton Inn, 1000 E. Willow Ave.  
 2:22 a.m. Business Check, Oasis Travel Center, 700 W. Horton Ave.  
 2:44 a.m. Security Check, Department for Children and Families, 1135 S. Country Club Dr.  
 2:59 a.m. Security Check, Colby Community College, 1255 S. Range Ave.  
 5:39 a.m. Transient/Hitchhiker/Homeless, Pilot Travel Center, 1100 E. Willow Ave.  
 7:39 a.m. Traffic Stop, Kansas National Guard Armory, 470 S. Range Ave.  
 8:12 a.m. Traffic Stop, N. Range Ave. and W. 4th St.  
 9:30 a.m. Case Follow Up PD, Law Enforcement Justice Center, 275 N. Court Ave.  
 10:02 a.m. EMS Run, 685 S. Garfield Ave.  
 11:44 a.m. Traffic Stop, I-70 EB MM 53.  
 12:00 p.m. Traffic Stop, N. Franklin Ave. and E. 4th St.  
 12:11 p.m. Traffic Stop, N. Range Ave. and W. 5th St.  
 3:07 p.m. Traffic Stop, Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave.  
 3:21 p.m. Traffic Stop, Frontier Ag, 1080 S. Range Ave.  
 3:51 p.m. Traffic Stop, Tubbs & Sons Ford Sales, 810 S. Range Ave.  
 4:17 p.m. Traffic Stop, I 70 EB MM 55.  
 4:38 p.m. Animal Complaint, 765 W. Cedar St.  
 6:31 p.m. Arrest and Detain, 345 S. Chickamauga Ave.  
 8:45 p.m. Battery on LEO, 345 S. Chickamauga Ave.  
 9:26 p.m. MV Injury Accident, Wagoner's Colby Wrecking, 200 N. Taft Ave.  
**February 25**  
 11:26 p.m. Suspicious Person, 700 S. Franklin Ave.  
 12:24 a.m. Traffic Stop, W. Willow Ave. and Sewell Ave.  
 2:38 a.m. Extra Patrol, J & B Meat Market, 1615 W. 4th St.  
 7:59 a.m. Traffic Stop, E. 4th St. and N. Lake Ave.  
 8:04 a.m. Traffic Stop, MC Auto Repair Shop, 730 S. Range Ave.  
 8:49 a.m. Animal Complaint, W. 2nd St. and N. Riddle Ave.  
 9:10 a.m. Other, Tubbs & Sons Ford Sales, 810 S. Range Ave.  
 11:17 a.m. Traffic Stop, S. Range Ave. and EB I-70.  
 11:27 a.m. Traffic Stop, Hampton Inn, 1000 E. Willow Ave.  
 12:17 p.m. Traffic Stop, Wal-Mart, 115 W. Willow Ave.  
 1:10 p.m. Traffic Stop, I-70 EB MM 53.  
 1:57 p.m. Animal Complaint, Family Center for Healthcare, 310 E. College Dr.  
 3:26 p.m. Traffic Stop, Kansas National Guard Armory, 470 S. Range Ave.  
 3:42 p.m. Traffic Stop, S. Range Ave. and W. Cherry St.  
 3:56 p.m. Traffic Stop, Kansas National Guard Armory, 470 S. Range Ave.  
 4:19 p.m. MV Non-Injury, Villa Hi Pond/Park, 1101 S. Range Ave.  
 4:21 p.m. Disturbance Fight, Colby Health and Rehab, 105 E. College Dr.  
 5:04 p.m. MV Non-Injury, Colby Elementary School, 210 N. Grant Ave.  
 10:32 p.m. Welfare Check, 345 S. Chickamauga Ave.  
 10:50 p.m. Disturbance Fight, Comfort Inn & Suites, 675 W. Horton Ave.

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**THE COLBY FREE PRESS** (USPS 120-920) is published every Wednesday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Mullen Newspaper Co., 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE** paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Colby Free Press, 104 W. U.S. Highway 24, Goodland, Kan., 67735.

**THE OFFICE** at 155 W. Fifth is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news herein. Member Kansas Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

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Annual subscription rates include access to e-edition; \$84 anywhere in the world for e-edition only.

## ANNUAL MEETING



### Endowment Foundation Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2026  
 6:30 P.M. at the Colby Community College Student Union, Room 106

RSVP to:  
 CCC Foundation Office  
 (785)-460-5482

## SUDOKU

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## 65TH ANNUAL

## COLBY GUN & COIN COLLECTORS SHOW

**Saturday** March 21 9am - 5pm **Sunday** March 22 10am - 3pm

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Admission is \$5 (\$6 with credit card) - kids 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult

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# SHERMAN COUNTY

## County Commissioners Meeting - February 27, 2026

BY MARILYN HEFNER

After the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the Sherman County Commissioners called the Feb. 27 meeting to order.

The agenda for Feb. 27 was approved, as were the minutes from the Feb. 9 meeting. Commissioners approved bills totaling \$272,516.87.

Fire Board minutes were reviewed. New carpet squares have been installed in the large meeting room. No discussion was needed.

Commissioners approved the Venture Corporation agreement for new asphalt on U.S. Highway 24 east of Edson to the Thomas-Sherman County line at Road 37. Through cost-sharing on the project, Sherman County will receive more than \$2 million in reimbursements.

Resolution 26-4, Rural Opportunity Zone, was approved.

A notice of intent was received from Trileaf Project Communications for the installation of a new radio tower southwest of Goodland.

Bids were received and discussed for roofing projects at the 4-H animal barn and the Sherman County Health Department. Since bids were opened, the remainder of the animal barn roof was blown off. Commissioners also must select a color for the health department's new roof. Following discussion, action was tabled until the March 9 meeting to allow time for the insurance adjuster's on-site visit March 3.

Representatives of Friends of the Fairgrounds - Ron Schilling, Genifer House and Aaron Duell - discussed plans to refurbish the pavilion at the fairgrounds. Once the concrete work around the building is complete, painting can begin. Schilling said he hopes community volunteers will assist with the project.

County Appraiser Rachelle Standley and Deputy Appraiser Brooklyn Herold shared information regarding the 2026 mailing of real estate appraisals. Property owners have until April 1 to request an informal hearing regarding their valuation notice.

Sherman County Health Department Administrator Jennifer Cure reported that all applied-for grants were awarded. She said she is working to secure additional grants, which were approved.

Sheriff Chad Mann shared information regarding the accrued by the housing of certain inmates in the bastille. Mann explained the reimbursements available

to Sherman County. Having a person in protective custody who are a danger to themselves or others is required to be held at the local hospital until a bed becomes available at Larned State Hospital. If the person is held at the hospital, Law enforcement must be stationed there, 24/7 until time for the person to be transported. The cost for that service is \$40 per hour.

Mann also explained the process for individuals requiring competency evaluations to stand trial. After evaluation at Larned, they are transported back to Sherman County and housed in the jail while awaiting results, which can take several months. The cost to house those inmates is \$100 per day.

Reimbursements are available through the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services. Commissioners commended Mann for researching and pursuing compensation for those costs.

Mann requested updated sidearms for officers. With trade-in of current weapons, the overall cost would be reduced. New holsters also would be required due to size differences. Seven sidearms with upgraded optics will be issued to full-time officers, and three without optics will be issued to part-time officers. Commissioners approved the purchase with trade-in of existing weapons.

County Maintenance Supervisor William McKnight reported that the Stock Car Racing Association has not secured insurance to hold races at the track. Other entities have expressed interest in hosting events, but McKnight said he has been unable to provide an answer while awaiting the association's decision. Commissioners directed him to allow the group until March 9 to obtain insurance. After that date, he may grant access to other interested parties.

McKnight said installation of new water lines is progressing and the crew will begin the next phase.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Rod Roeder reported that unprocessable materials, including concrete, are being placed in alley dumpsters, causing the baler to break down. If the practice continues, tipping fees may increase.

Commissioners also discussed the inclement weather policy. Commissioner Swager recommended that courthouse employees scheduled to work be paid if the courthouse closes due to weather. Shift employees could take a comp day at a later date.

## Country Clovers 4-H Club

SUBMITTED BY HENSLEY SHORT CLUB REPORTER

The monthly meeting of the County Clovers 4-H Club was held Feb. 16 at the 4-H building. Before the meeting was called to order the club had a guest speaker.

Megan Thomas from Sherman County Farm Bureau gave a presentation on farmers and the percent of land that is farmed in the world.

The meeting was called to order by President, Hayden Short. Song Leader, Harlyn Short led the club in the flag salute and the 4-H pledge. She also led the club in the song Wheels on the Bus.

Secretary Rylea Martin called roll call; 15 members, 2 leaders and 4 parents/guests were present.

Following a brief businesses meeting, the club enjoyed a short program. Lakyn Howard gave a demonstration on How to Make Jello Roll-Ups and Gage Linin gave a demonstration on How to Make Energy Bites. Recreation Leader, Clare Bentzinger led the club in a rock-paper-scissors tournament.

The meeting was adjourned by saying the club motto.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 16 at the 4-H building.



# GENEALOGY



Are you your family's historian? Or are you simply just interested in finding out who your ancestors are? Would you like help learning how to find, record, organize and share your family details, stories, and possibly your family memorabilia?

There is help and informational ideas available for viewing in your home, or you can join with and get to know other genealogy enthusiasts locally from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 7 at the FamilySearch Center located at 1200 North 15 St., in Burlington Colo. It is a Branch Discovery Day and RootsTech classes and messages about genealogy and preserving your family history will be available for viewing, as well as there will be time to connect with others and share ideas. If you would like to stay for the lunch hour, a pizza potluck is planned for all to share and enjoy together.

RootsTech is an annual event and is available for viewing classes on many aspects of genealogy and family history preservation from March 5-7 this year. It can be accessed online for registration now to view all three days at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/> and after registering, many of the classes will be available for viewing at your leisure all year long, even classes from previous years are available to learn from at your convenience.

On March 7 though, you can join with others viewing classes online at the Burlington FamilySearch Center and mingle with them and learn together. Please RSVP for details, updates, and reminders to Darren Carter at 719-289-6965 or use the attached QR code and navigate to the Burlington Branch Discovery Day and RSVP there.

Free personal help is also available at the FamilySearch Center in Burlington Colorado each Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 12 to 2 p.m. The FamilySearch Center is located inside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is a wonderful resource for learning how to trace your family tree and share ideas with others who are also enjoying genealogy.

There is also free help available for genealogy and family history preservation in Goodland on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Goodland Public Library located at 812 Broadway Ave., in the Kansas Room.



## HISTORY



The Cheyenne County Historical Society and other interested groups continue to delve into the story of the Declaration of Independence. This is the third in a series of articles leading up to the 250th Anniversary of our Nation's Founding.

Let's continue from where Article #2 in last week's paper left off:

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly

neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

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## OBITUARIES

### Loretta June Robinson

Loretta June Robinson, 82, of Gold Canyon, AZ., passed away Tuesday, January 20th, 2026 at home with her husband by her side.

Loretta was born January 27th, 1943 in Muskegon, MI., the daughter of Roy O. and Laura P. Terrell. The family moved to rural NE., near the town of Bayard, in 1948 where Roy took up farming for their living.

Loretta and her siblings attended a rural 1-room school near their home through the 8th grade, then attended High School in Bayard, NE., where she graduated in 1961.

After graduation, Loretta moved to Denver, CO., to attend Business School. Loretta worked many jobs while attending school. During this time, she met and married Joe Hunt. They had 2 great boys-Todd & Eric. Loretta was such a proud mom.

After life events, Loretta, Todd, and Eric, moved to Brewster, KS., where Loretta met and married her husband, Larry Robinson. They were married at her parents' home in Gering, NE., on Christmas Day, 1983.

After High School graduations, Larry & Loretta moved to AZ., in 1985, where they have lived ever since.



Loretta has had many joys in her life. The ones she's most proud of is a mom to 2 great sons, a grandmother to 7 wonderful grandchildren, a great grandmother to 4 beautiful great grandchildren, a foster mother to 40 children, a business owner, Deacon at the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church in Fountain Hills, AZ., and working for Continental Airlines in Denver, CO.

Loretta is preceded in death by her parents Roy and Laura Terrell, brother Dean, Dawn, and several aunts and uncles.

Loretta is survived by her loving husband of 42 years, Larry, sons Todd Hunt and wife Michelle, of Winslow, AZ., and Eric Hunt of SanTan Valley, AZ., brother 'Butch' Terrell of Wheatland, WY., sister Sandy Bartlett of Alto, MI., niece Mindi Viher and husband Jason of Rapid City, SD., nephews 'Dirt' Terrell and wife Sherry of La Salle, CO., Troy Maxcy of Ogalala, NE., David Terrell, and Kevin Terrell of Alliance, NE., 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life for Loretta will be planned at a later date.

### Stan Krien Memorial Service

Family and friends are invited to attend the funeral service for Stan Krien on March 14, 2026 at 2 p.m. at Knodel Funeral Home.

A gathering to celebrate his life will follow at St. Francis Senior Center.

### Mary Kay (Foley) Woodyard

"Mary Kay (Foley) Woodyard of Norton, Kansas passed away on February 21st, 2026. She was born on August 12th, 1946 in Norton to Lowell Foley and Alice (Sproul) Foley.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 7th at 10:30 am at The First United Methodist Church in Norton. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Norton Library and sent in care of Plumer-Gobber Funeral Home, 215 W. Main St., Norton, KS 67654. Condolences may be left at [www.plumergobber.com](http://www.plumergobber.com)



### Linda Lou Fringer Forgue

Linda Lou Fringer Forgue peacefully passed away in Richmond, Texas, on Saturday, the 21st of February, a few weeks after her 80th birthday. Her family was at her side as she went home to join the Lord. She is preceded in death: by her husband of almost 40 years, Kenny; her son, Todd; both of her parents, Max Fringer and Bonnie Fringer Turner; her uncle Royal and aunt Darlene, and their son Tom; her older brother Larry Fringer, and his son Eddie; her younger sister, Connie Atkinson; her nephew Rick Fringer Jr.; and her dear family friends, Eldon and Mildred Black, and their son, Lyman.

Linda is survived by her sister-in-law Kathy Fringer; brother, Rick Fringer and his wife Kathy, of California, and their family; her younger brother Randy and his wife, Janice of Richmond; her nephews and nieces: Danny Fringer, and his family; Debbie Hudson and her family; Jeff Fringer, Terri Leach and her husband, George; their children Hunter and Zoe; Michael Atkinson and his wife Karen of Oklahoma, and their sons Nolan and Connor; Amber Atkinson, and her husband Reuben Cervantes, and their sons, Dylan and Andrew; her cousins: Marilyn, Julee, and John, and his family; her adopted sister, Sharon Black, and her children: Jean and Byron Hale and their daughter Cheyanna; Kenny Black and his family: Chelsey and Leigh Zodrow and their family Paisley, Taydem, and Kreightyn; Jobey and

Kylee Black and their children Nashlynn and Trigg; Carla and David Depperschmidt, their daughter Leia Gallentine and husband Jason, and their children Kiera and Clayton; their second daughter Heather Depperschmidt and her children: Zach, Olivia, and Quinn; and countless friends and coworkers.

Linda graduated from Decatur County High School in 1964, and married the love of her life, Kenny Forgue in 1967. Later that year their only child, Todd Kenneth Forgue, was born. Linda owned an auto mechanic shop in Stafford, with her husband Kenny, for roughly 15 years. After caring for her husband for almost 9 years before his passing; Linda started a new chapter opening and working at Marshall's in Rosenberg for 18 years, a job she held until October of this last year.

Linda loved car races, televised and in person, and football and baseball games, and often watched them with her brother Randy, or remotely with her friend, Sharon. She stayed in touch with friends and family in her native Kansas, and across the country, writing letters and calling everyone regularly. Her smile and deadpan sarcasm will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Her services will be at Plumer-Gobber Funeral Home in Oberlin, Kansas on February 27, 2026 at 10:00AM. A graveside service will be held in St. Ann's Cemetery in Zurich, Kansas. Goodbye, Aunt Linda.



### Linus (Butch) Reicks of Goodland, KS, died February 23, 2026, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

A full obituary will be coming at a later date.

### Marsha Magley

Marsha passed from this life into the arms of her Savior and Lord Jesus Christ on Feb. 12, 2026, at the Cheyenne Co. Village nursing home in St. Francis, KS, at the age of 79.

Marsha was born Jan 10, 1947 to Marshall Cary Squires and Lena May Squires (Shoop). She was the second child of three, having an older sister Shirley May Watson (Squires) and a younger brother Marshall Squires II. The family lived at 4410 Utica St. Denver CO. Schools attended included Louisa May Alcott Elementary, Skinner Junior High and was a 1965 graduate of North High School. Secondary education was from Adams State College, Alamosa CO where she attended until graduation in 1970. Marsha attended on a full music scholarship and completed her Bachelor's and completed her Bachelor's carrying a double major in Elementary Education and Elementary Music Education.

Marsha was a Girl Scout, Job's Daughter and attended many summer music camps and contests. She went on a 26 concert European Choir Tour, while in college. The tour visited eight countries, including England, France, West Germany, Italy, Austria, Netherlands and Belgium.

In August of 1970 Marsha moved to St. Francis, KS with the help from her brother Marshall to accept a position as the Elementary Vocal teacher at the St. Francis Grade School. Her 1964 Rambler American Station Wagon arrived for her new life in St. Francis. Marsha remained in that position for four years and between 1970 and '77 also taught piano lessons privately to several students. Marsha related that she and her students performed original songs at the Ron Evans Special Assembly which was a very pleasant memory for her and an exciting time for Cheyenne County.

Marsha met and married Frederick D. Magley II on Sept 3, 1974. She completed that year of teaching then moved to Fred's farm southwest of Bird City KS. Marsha became a mother to Wayne Magley and Marilyn Magley at that time. Both Wayne and Marilyn had families later and Marsha and Fred had numerous grandchildren as a result.

Marsha was very active in the Order of Eastern Star, Rebekahs, Odd Fellows, and



Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR. Marsha additionally served as music director for the Cheyenne County Theater Group in 1974 and the St. Francis Music Club presentation of Oklahoma.

Marsha served as Secretary of the Citizens Band Radio Club, was a Life Member, Historian and Director of Publications for the Cheyenne County Historical Society and in more recent years as Acting President of the Bird City Historical Assoc.

Marsha dearly loved Genealogy and Family History. She edited and/or compiled and typed for publication, "Dust on the Sunflowers" by Roy Weber, "Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Stage Line" commemorative volume, 1984, "Bird City Historical, Volume I" by Dorothy Mast and Marsha C. Magley. Also "Shades of the Past" in 1985. Marsha was co-promoter of "Project Mail Bag" L&PP Stage Line reenactment 1984 across the state of Kansas, into CO and to "The Denver Post" office in downtown Denver. Marsha enjoyed hosting guests to the Highlands School House on the Bird City KS Thresher Grounds, during the annual Thresher Shows. Marsha compiled a history of Cheyenne County Schools and through the years assisted Fred in the placing of over 400 historical welded discs signs/markers in the Tri-State area. Marsha was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Fred, brother's in law, Arnold "Junior" Magley and Ruben Landenberger.

Surviving family members are Shirley M. Watson, Marshall C. Squires II, sisters-in-law Connie Z Squires, Helene M Landenberger and Sandra C. Magley. Children: Wayne Magley, spouse Mary and Marilyn Ellen Magley. Nieces: Kimberly A Millet, Kathy L Woodcox and Lesa L Crow. Nephews: Rodney L. Magley, Roger A. Magley, Johnnie Jay Woodcox, Christopher L Mindenhall, Marshall C. Squires III, and James J. Millet, Lex D Landenberger and J R Landenberger. 6 Grandchildren and 10 Great Grandchildren.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home. Services were held Feb 17, at the First Christian Church in St. Francis and interment at the Cheyenne Valley Cemetery just south of Wheeler KS.

### Jo Anne "Jo" Holmgren

HOLMGREN, JO ANNE "JO," 85 formerly of Colby, KS passed away January 10, 2026, at Saint Joseph Medical Center in Wichita Kansas. Jo Anne was born November 12th, 1940, in North Carolina. She was the only child of John and Lana Christine (Blackman) Holmgren.

Jo's family moved to follow her father John's military career. They lived in Chicago, and Wichita. Jo attended Catholic School and later graduated in 1958 from Wichita High School Southeast. Jo earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Sacred Heart College and a Masters of Librarianship from The Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia.

Jo worked as a corporate librarian for Boeing in Wichita and later moved to Washington D.C. where she worked as a librarian in the Library of Congress. Jo returned to Wichita and worked for the Wichita Public Library as a librarian. Jo later worked for the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District where she met her husband, Rodney Eisenbise. They were married on Halloween 1986 although Jo retained her surname of Holmgren. They lived in Atwood Kansas, Colby Kansas, and Hershey



Pennsylvania. After Rodney retired from his insurance agency he and Jo moved to El Dorado Kansas to be closer to family.

Jo was a talented ballet dancer and taught ballet to students in Atwood. Jo enjoyed music, theatre, art, gardening, and dogs. She developed a talent and lifelong love for making things from her mother "Chris." Jo was an accomplished seamstress and was a member of a quilting group in Colby Kansas and The Crazy Quilters Guild of El Dorado Kansas. A project of Jo's was making quilts for cancer patients.

Jo will be remembered as a creative person, a free spirit and an independent thinker. Jo is survived by her stepson Lee Eisenbise (Charollette); her stepdaughter Melissa Norton (Brian), Grandchildren Ryan Jones (Kelsey), Brandon Norton and Allison Norton, great grandsons Collin and Landon Jones, Cousin Mary Jo Mikulski (Bill), dear friends Darlene Johnson and Russell Warzyn, and many brother and sister in laws, nieces, nephews, other family and friends. Jo Anne was preceded in death by her parents John and Christine Holmgren, and her husband Rodney Eisenbise.

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**Estate Sale: March 5, 6 & 7, 2026.** Goodland KOA, Managers Home, 1114 E. US Hwy. 24, Goodland, KS. Furniture & Home décor, dishes, glassware, electronics AND MORE! -GSN 2/27-3/4

**HELP WANTED**

**FIELD MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR WANTED:** The Atwood Summer Rec is seeking a Field Maintenance Supervisor for the summer season. Responsibilities include supervising and performing maintenance of recreation fields and facilities, coordinating upkeep

schedules, and ensuring safe, clean playing areas. Must be reliable with basic maintenance skills. Supervisory experience preferred. Apply at [atwoodsummerrec26@gmail.com](mailto:atwoodsummerrec26@gmail.com) -AT 3/4-3/18-

**SUMMER RECREATION DIRECTOR WANTED:**

The Atwood Summer Recreation Dept is seeking a Recreation Director to plan, organize, and oversee youth sports and community recreation programs. Responsibilities include program coordination, volunteer and coach support, board communication, scheduling,

budgeting coordination, and community outreach. Strong organization and communication skills required. Experience in recreation or leadership preferred. Apply or request information at [atwoodsummerrec26@gmail.com](mailto:atwoodsummerrec26@gmail.com) -AT 3/4-3/18

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**The City of Almena is seeking applicants for the position of**

**City Operator.** This position is responsible for Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste Disposal, care of parks, and other maintenance and other responsibilities deemed necessary by the City of Almena. Applicants must be willing to obtain all Certifications for this position, have a CDL class B license or willing to obtain one. Wage will be based on experience, knowledge, and prior employment history. Applications are available on our website at [CityOfAlmena.com](http://CityOfAlmena.com); e-mail a resume to [cityclerk@cityofalmena.com](mailto:cityclerk@cityofalmena.com), or US Mail at 421 Main Street,

Almena, KS 67622 or stop by the City Office at 421 Main Street, Almena, KS; Call the City Office at 785-699-2425. Our office hours are 8a.m.-1p.m. Monday through Friday. -NT 2/18-3/4-

**Atwood United Methodist Church is seeking a secretary.** 15-20 hours per week. Duties include bookkeeping, payroll, bulletins and other printed materials, phone and email correspondence, supply ordering. Knowledge of Quickbooks preferred but not required. Contact Michelle Moses for an application. (785) 626-3855. -AT 2/19-tfn

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The Kansas Department of Wildlife is accepting bids for grazing on the Norton Wildlife Area. Bids are for the 2026 spring season. There are two tracts available: measuring 133 acres and 121 acres. The 121-acre plot may be burned before the onset of grazing. Grazing will start April 1st and all animals will be removed by June 15th. Bids will be accepted until March 6, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. For more information contact Area Manager Luke Winge (620) 687-0807 or [luke.winge@ks.gov](mailto:luke.winge@ks.gov).

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The Norton County Commissioners are accepting bids to clean out and salvage any items of value on the property that the county owns at 122 E. Park, Norton, Kansas. Bids will be opened on March 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. The cleaning and salvage must be completed by April 10, 2026. The winning applicant will enter into a signed contract with the county agreeing to the terms and conditions of trash removal and the removal of recyclable items. Norton County Solid Waste demolition rules will be followed. The dumping fees will be waived. Bids must be delivered to the Norton County Clerk's office by 9:00 a.m. on March 9, 2026. Call Norton County Clerk Craig Renner with questions at 785-877-5710

**REMINDER**  
Mike & Cathy David  
Saturday, March 7, 2026 @ 10 a.m. MST  
Sale location: Online and 33483 River Road, Benkelman, NE  
(3 miles West of Benkelman on River Road)  
**Rambat Auction**  
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354.79 +/- ACRES | NORTON COUNTY, KS  
DRYLAND WITH CRP ACRES

**ONLINE BIDDING OPENS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:00 A.M. CDT**

**ONLINE BIDDING CLOSSES WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> STARTING AT 10:00 A.M. CDT**

**BID ONLINE AT: [bid.agwestland.com](http://bid.agwestland.com)**

Located in southeastern Norton County, KS, this 354+/- acre farm offers a combination of tillable acres, CRP, and wooded draws giving the buyer a great investment with quality recreational features. The 298+/- acres of farmland is composed of majority Class II Holdrege silt loam soil. Scattered along the east and west boundaries of the farm are 47+/- acres of CRP and deep draws filled with mature trees and thickets providing great habitat for whitetail deer and upland game living on the property. This high quality Norton County farm checks the boxes for a great investment with notable hunting potential and ease of access from Highway 9.

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**Norton Rural Fire**  
Selling on Big Iron's March 11 sale for Norton Rural Fire Department will be a Ford F-350 dual wheeled pickup. Single cab, 5-speed with the 7.3 liter diesel engine. 66,800 miles. Also selling an aluminum 9'x8' flatbed.  
Call (785) 871-0255 with Questions

**Norton Livestock Market, Inc.**  
Upcoming March Sales for Norton Livestock are on Thursday starting at 1:00 p.m. as follows:

March 5..... Regular Sale  
March 12..... Regular Sale  
March 19.... Special Bred Heifer-Stock Cow-Pair Sale with Regular Sale  
March 26..... Regular Sale

For more information or to consign call; Jan Tien, Market Manager, at 785-567-8515; or Fieldmen: Doak Brooks 785-567-7006; Kolton Harting 785-202-0085; or Matt McClain 785-871-2342. See [www.nortonlivestock.com](http://www.nortonlivestock.com) for further sale information.

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**AUCTION LOCATION: GATEWAY CIVIC CENTER, OBERLIN, KS**

**SELLER: LF, INC.**

**CROPS:** No growing crops except on Tract 2  
**POSSESSION:** Date of closing on all tracts except Tract 2. Possession of Tr 2 after wheat harvest  
**MINERAL RIGHTS:** All Seller's interest will transfer to Buyers.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in High Plains News News on Wednesday, March 4, 11 & 18, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Jackie L. Dautel, Deceased. Case No. SH-2026-PR-000004

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on the 18th day of February, 2026, a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed in this Court by Brad Nothdorf, an heir of Jackie L. Dautel, deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Brad Nothdorf, Petitioner

SUBMITTED BY: Jake D. Kling #26869 KLING LAW, P.A. 1011 Main - P.O. Box 743 Goodland, KS 67735 jake@klinglaw.net Attorney for Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in High Plains News News on Wednesday, March 4, 11 & 18, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

City of Bird City, Kansas Plaintiff vs Case No: CN-2026-CV-000006

J.A. Van Doren and Dottie Van Doren and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, trustees, creditors, and assigns of such defendants as may be deceased; the unknown spouses of the defendants, whether deceased or living; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors, and assigns of such defendants as are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of such defendants as are or were partners or in partnerships; the unknown guardians, conservators, trustees of such other defendants as are minors or otherwise under legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased, Defendants

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED AND DESIGNATED AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Cheyenne County, Kansas by the City of Bird City, Kansas, praying for judgment that said plaintiff is the owner in fee simple of the following-described real estate in Cheyenne County, Kansas, to-wit:

A portion of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 3 South, Range 38 West of the 6th P.M., Cheyenne County, Kansas, survey and legal description prepared by Brian E. Berlier, L.S. 1420, d.b.a. B.E.B. and Associates on December 12, 2025, more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Northwest corner of Lot 3, Block 8 of the Original Town (now City) of Bird City, Kansas; thence on an assumed bearing of North 00°00'00" East long the West line of that certain tract described in Book 27, Page 475, May 26, 1921, 590 feet to the Northwest corner of said tract; thence along the North line of said tract, North 89°56'32" East 130.00 feet; thence leaving said North line and running along the West right of way line of Burr Avenue, South 00°00'15" West 590.00 feet to the Northeast corner of Lot 1 of said Block 8; thence along the North line of said Block 8, South 89°56'32" West 129.95 feet to the point of BEGINNING. The above-described tract contains 1.76 gross acres, more or less, and is subject to all public road right of ways and easements of record.

and praying that the Court determine all adverse estates or interests which are claimed in said real property, and that plaintiffs' title thereto be quieted against you and each of you, and that you and all persons claiming by, through or under you be forever barred and excluded from any title, estate or interest in, or lien upon, or claim against the real property above-described; and you are hereby required to plead to said Petition on or before the 15th day of April, 2026 at 10:15 A.M. CST in said Court, at the Courthouse in the City of St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

City of Bird City, Kansas, By: John Bays, Mayor, Petitioner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in High Plains News/The Colby Free Press on Wednesday, February 18, 25 & March 4, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Servbank, SB Plaintiff, vs. Vanessa Gray; Unknown Spouse, if any, of Vanessa Gray; John Doe (Tenant/Occupant); Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant) Defendants. Case No. TH-2025-CV-000013 Court Number: Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

Notice Of Sale

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Thomas County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Thomas County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the Front Door of the Courthouse at Colby Thomas County, Kansas, on March 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM, the following real estate:

The West Four and one-half Feet (W-4.5') of Lot Five (5), All of Lot Six (6), and the East Twenty-three and one-half Feet (E-23.5') of Lot Seven (7), Block Seventy-five (75), First or West Addition to the City of Colby, Thomas County, Kansas, as shown by the recorded plat thereof, commonly known as 560 W 4th St, Colby, KS 67701 (the "Property") to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court. For more information, visit www.Southlaw.com

Tom Nickols, Sheriff Thomas County, Kansas

Prepared By: SouthLaw, P.C. Blair T. Gisi (KS #24096) 13160 Foster., Suite 100 Overland Park, KS 66213-2660 (913) 663-7600 (913) 663-7899 (Fax) Attorneys for Plaintiff (250222)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in High Plains News/The Colby Free Press on Friday, February 20, 27 & Wednesday, March 4, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

Alexis Werth, Administrator of the Estate of Julie Marie Williams, PETITIONER, v. CASE NO. TH-2025-CV-000047 KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. RESPONDENTS (Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60)

NOTICE OF SUIT

TO THE KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, RESPONDENTS IN THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED MATTER, AND ALL OTHER CONCERNED PERSONS: You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Thomas County, Kansas, by Petitioner Alexis Werth, Administrator of the Estate of Julie Marie Williams, praying that title to property stated in the Petition be awarded to the Petitioner and you are hereby required to answer the Petition on or before Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., at which time the cause shall be heard in the District Court of Thomas County, Courtroom 1, and by Zoom at:

Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612679021?pwd=OYMMML6iZxW6CcXkhev5xRC0QBwXn8.1&from=addon; Meeting ID: 161 267 9021; Password: 089790; Find you local Number: https://www.zoomgov.com/u/ab5WrlUH4x7 IF YOU FAIL TO PLEAD, JUDGMENT WILL BE ENTERED UPON THE PETITION.

Alexis Werth, Administrator of the Estate of Julie Marie Williams, Petitioner

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Courtney E. Ress, #29378 Gatz & Ress, LLP 505 N. Franklin Ave., Ste. A P.O. Box 346 Colby, KS 67701 Phone: 785-460-3383 Fax: 785-460-7104 Email: courtney@gatzlaw.net Attorney for Petitioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in High Plains News News on Wednesday, March 4, 11 & 18, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY KANSAS

Roy A. Shrader and Karen S. Shrader PLAINTIFF vs. Warren H. Shrader children: Audrey Evins, Sandra Shrader, Stanley Shrader, Jaylene Shrader, Cathy Atkins. Any unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants which exist, dissolved, or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants who are or were partners or executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants who are minors or are under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased, DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Cheyenne County Kansas by Roy A Shrader and Karen S. Shrader, Plaintiff, praying for an order quieting the title to the following described real estate:

The North 114 Feet of Lots Four (4), Five (5), Six (6), Seven (7) and Eight (8), all in Block Seventeen (17), in the City of Bird City, according to the recorded plat thereof, hereinafter referred to as Tract A.

The petition further seeks an order holding the plaintiff to be the owner of fee simple title to TRACT A, free of all right, title and interest of the above named defendants and all other persons who are or may be concerned, and that they and each of them be forever barred and foreclosed of and from all right, title, interest, lien, estate or equity of redemption in or to the above-described real estate or any part thereof.

You are hereby required to plead to said Petition on or before the 20th day of April, 2026, in said Court at St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

ROY A SHRADER AND KAREN S. SHRADER

BROWN, CREIGHTON & PECKHAM 308 Main - Box 46 Atwood, KS 67730 (785)-626-3295 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in High Plains News/The Oberlin Herald on Wednesday, February 25, March 4 & 11, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DECATUR COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

TH MSR Holdings LLC Plaintiff, vs.

Michael J. Bird; Unknown Spouse, if any, of Michael J. Bird; State of Kansas, Department of Revenue; John Doe (Tenant/Occupant); Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant) Defendants. Case No. DC-2025-CV-000017 Court Number: Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

Notice Of Sale

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Decatur County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Decatur County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the Front Door of the Courthouse at Oberlin Decatur County, Kansas, on March 19, 2026, at 10:00 AM, the following real estate:

All of Lot Six (6), Block Fifteen (15), Original Town of Oberlin, Decatur County, Kansas, commonly known as 212 S Beaver Ave, Oberlin, KS 67749 (the "Property")

to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court. For more information, visit www.Southlaw.com

David Wachendorfer, Sheriff Decatur County, Kansas

Prepared By: SouthLaw, P.C. Blair T. Gisi (KS #24096) 13160 Foster., Suite 100 Overland Park, KS 66213-2660 (913) 663-7600 (913) 663-7899 (Fax) Attorneys for Plaintiff (252681)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in The Oberlin Herald on Wednesday, February 18, 25 & March 4, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DECATUR COUNTY, KANSAS

Board of Commissioners of Decatur County, Kansas, Plaintiffs, v. Case # DC-2025-CV-01 Kevin Hageman, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS TO: Tract # 1: Kevin Hageman; Tract # 4: Tiffany J. Hinkhouse (Moore); Tract # 6: Timothy Bettridge, Kathleen Bruntmyer; Tract # 7: Jennifer Beaumann; Tract # 8: Souli M. Fieldman, Valery L. Strider; Tract # 11: Tony Ray Larue Jr., Marlene Larue; Tract # 12: Christopher R. Pettit, Susan Marie Pettit, K & P Trust; Tract # 13: Edith Bernard, Phyllis Giro; Tract # 15: Blaufox Energy LLC; Tract # 16: Todd Deciling; Tract # 17: Trisha Gassman; Tract # 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25: Kathleen Barnes; Tract # 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, & 34: Sylvia Petrasek; Tract # 35: HEP Oil Company, LLC

if the above defendants are living, and if dead, then their unknown spouses, heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns; and

The unknown executors, guardians and trustees of such of the above named defendants who are minors or are in anywise under legal disability; and

The unknown executors, administrators, trustees, creditors, successors of such defendants as are or were partners or in partnership; and

The unknown executors, administrators, trustees, creditors, successors, receivers and assigns of any of the above named defendants who are or were existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; and

The unknown spouses of the defendants, and all other persons concerned.

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the District Court of Decatur County, Kansas, by the Board of Commissioners of Decatur County, Kansas, praying for judicial foreclosure and sale of real property upon which there is unpaid delinquent real estate taxes, and you are hereby required to plead the said petition on or before April 2, 2026, in said Court in Oberlin, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition. The following are descriptions of all properties which shall be subject to foreclosure and sale and the names of such of you as are the owner, or a party having some interest therein:

Tract # 1: #1-00839 - Lot 3, Block 10, Sappa Addition to the City of Oberlin, Decatur County, Kansas. Tract # 4: #1-00770 - Lots 7 and 8 and 10 feet of the vacated Ingalls and Maple Street, Block 10 in East Oberlin addition to the City of Oberlin, Decatur County, Kansas. Tract # 6: #1-02054 - Lots 23 and 24, Block 2 in the Original town, now City of Oberlin, Decatur County Kansas Tract # 7: #1-02062 - South 4 feet of Lot 13, all of lot 14 and the north 9 feet of Lot 15, Block 2, Original town, now City of Oberlin, Decatur County Kansas. Tract # 8: #1-02585 - Lots 1 through 8, Block 8, original town, now City of Dresden, Decatur County, Kansas Tract # 11: #1-02823 - Lots one through six, Block 14 in the original town, now City of Jennings, Decatur County Kansas.

Tract # 12: #1-206041 - A Tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Eight (8), Township Four (4) South, Range Twenty-seven (27), West of the 6th P.M., Decatur County, Kansas; more particularly described as follows and assuming the West line of the said Southeast Quarter (SE/4) bears North 00°00'00" East Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section Eight (8); thence North 00°00'00" East 135.72 feet on the 1/2 Section line to True Point of Beginning; thence continuing North 00°00'00" East 647.58 feet on the 1/2 Section line to a point; thence North 89°40'01" East 1327.73 to a point; thence South 01°38'10" East 545.64 feet to a point; thence South 83°21'55" East 170.59 feet to a point, said point being the Northeast corner of a tract of land described in Decatur County Record Book A 83, page 416; thence South 07°06'05" East 387.95 feet to the Southeast corner of said tract described in said Book A 83, page 416; thence North 86°24'13" West 535.00 feet to the Southwest corner of said tract described in Book A 83, page 416; thence North 23°55'22" West 293.83 feet to a point; thence South 89°32'10" West 907.63 feet to true point of beginning. LESS: A Tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Eight (8), Township Four (4) South, Range Twenty-seven (27), West of the 6th P.M., Decatur County, Kansas; more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point that is 1,563.25 feet East and 937.73 feet North of the Southwest Quarter corner of said Quarter; thence on an assumed bearing of North 71°10'31" West a distance of 388.0 feet to a point; thence North 86°25'31" West a distance of 495.0 feet to a point; thence South 17°45'31" East a distance of 383.0 feet to a point; thence South 86°28'37" East a distance of 535.0 feet to the point of beginning.

Tract # 13: #2-1009 - A 1/16th interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from the South one-half of 21-3-28, Decatur County, Kansas. (production affidavit filed)

Tract # 15: #2-2663 - A 1/4th interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from E/2 NE/4 NE/4; E/1 NW/4 NE/4 NE/4 and the W/2 SW/4 NE/4 NE/4 in S/2-26 Decatur County Kansas. (forever mineral interest)

Tract # 16: #2-2752 - 1/4 of the Las J. Deuling Revocable Trust 89.50% interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from N/2 SW/4 12-1-26, Decatur County Kansas.

Tract # 17: #2-2844 - A 1/4th interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from N/2 SW/4 31-4-26, Decatur County Kansas.

Tract # 18: #2-1316 - A 1/12 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from NW/4 36-4-27, Decatur County Kansas.

Tract # 19: #2-1317 - A 1/36 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from NW/4 36-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever interest)

Tract # 20: #2-1321 - A 1/12 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from E/2 NE/4 35-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever interest)

Tract # 21: #2-1322 - A 1/36 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from E/2 NE/4 35-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 22: #2-1327 - A 1/24 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from NW/4 S/2 SW/4 33-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 23: #2-1328 - A 1/72 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from SW/4 S/2 NW/4 33-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 24: #2-1336 - A 1/12 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from SW/4 4-5-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 25: #2-1337 - A 1/24th interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from SW/4 4-5-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 26: #2-1315 - A 1/12 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from NW/4 36-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 27: #2-1318 A 1/36 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from NW/4 36-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 28: #2-1320 A 1/12 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from E/2 NE/4 35-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 29: #2-1323 A 1/36 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from E/2 NE/4 35-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 30: #2-1325 A 1/36 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from SW/4 S/2 NW/4 33-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 31: #2-1326 A 3/96 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from SW/4 S/2 NW/4 33-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 32: #2-1329 - A 1/72 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from SW/4 S/2 NW/4 33-4-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 33: #2-1325 - A 1/8 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from SW/4 4-5-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 34: #2-1339 - A 1/24 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from SW/4 4-5-27, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

Tract # 35: #2-0216 - A 1/6 interest in and to all oil, gas and other minerals in and under and that may be produced from W/2 and SE/4 10-5-30, Decatur County Kansas (forever)

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECATUR COUNTY, KANSAS.

APPROVED:

Steven W. Hirsch Steven W. Hirsch Decatur County Attorney

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in High Plains News News on Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Annual Report of North Randall Township Thomas County, Kansas

The undersigned treasurer and trustee of North Randall Township, submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Table with 6 columns: Name of Funds, Cash Balance Jan. 1, 2025, Total Receipts, Total Expenditures, Cash Balance Dec. 31, 2025, Unpaid Bills Dec. 31, 2025. Rows include General, Road, Special Machinery, Fire Protection, Noxious Weed, and Totals.

Does the Total Cash Balance for all Funds equal to Cash Balance Dec. 31? No

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 2025.

Date: [Signature]

Township Treasurer

(Cut here for Publication) Report must be published if the annual budget exceeded \$25,000.

Date: [Signature]

Township Trustee

Filed this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ County Clerk

Examined and confirmed by the County Commission, \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ County Clerk



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# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Published in High Plains News/The St. Francis Herald & Bird City Times on Thursday, February 26 & Wednesday, March 4, 2026

RESOLUTION NO: 26- 03

RESOLUTION COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS TO DECLARE A CERTAIN ROAD WITHIN CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS, AS A MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROAD

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is authorized to commence proceedings to determine whether certain roads within the county or on the county line are used only occasionally or are used only by a few individuals; and

WHEREAS, when the Board of County Commissioners of any county finds that any road within the county or on the county line is used occasionally or is used only by a few individuals, the Board may declare the road to be a "minimum maintenance road" under K.S.A. 68-5,102; and

WHEREAS, Bobby George has suggested that the following road may be used only occasionally or may be used only by a few individuals, to-wit:

That portion of Road 30 beginning at the intersection of Road 30 and Road U extending north approximately one mile to the dead end in Cheyenne County, Kansas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners shall hold a public hearing in the Commissioner Room of the Cheyenne County Courthouse, 212 E. Washington, St. Francis, Kansas, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of considering whether the aforementioned road should be declared to be a "minimum maintenance road."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any person wishing to appear at such hearing and give evidence or testimony thereon may do so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the conclusion of such hearing the Board shall determine if the aforementioned road described above should be declared to be a "minimum maintenance road."

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective upon publication in the Saint Francis Herald.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Cheyenne County, Kansas, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

Bret Joling, Chairman

William J. Martinez

Roger Faulstich

ATTEST:

Sharrisa Andrist, Cheyenne County Clerk

# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Published in High Plains News/The Rawlins County Square Deal on Thursday, February 27, Wednesday, March 4 & 11, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RAWLINS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of CASE NO. RA-2025-PR-000023 JAYNE NIERMEIER, Deceased

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court by Everett Niles Niermeier, executor of the will of Jayne Niermeier, deceased, praying for a final settlement of the estate, approval of the acts, proceedings and accounts of the executor, allowance for executor's fees, attorney's fees and expenses, determination of the heirs, devisees and legatees entitled to the estate and assignment to them in accordance with the will of Jayne Niermeier, deceased. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 27th 2026 at 10:00 A.M., on said day, in said Court, in the City of Atwood, Rawlins County, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

EVERETT NILES NIERMEIER, EXECUTOR

LEWIS, BEIMS & HOLSTE  
509 Main St.  
Atwood, KS 67730  
(785) 626-3221  
Attorneys for the Executor

# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Published in High Plains News/The Oberlin Herald on Wednesday, February 25, March 4 & 11, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DECATUR COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Case No. 2026-PR-4 KYLE DAVID KINDALL, deceased. (Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The State of Kansas to all persons concerned: You are hereby notified that on February 17, 2026, a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in the District Court of Decatur County, Kansas by Malinda R. Kindall an heir of Kyle David Kindall, deceased. All creditors of the above-named decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall forever be barred.

MALINDA R. KINDALL

Petitioner  
MARK A. TREMAINE  
Attorney at Law  
908 N. Broadway  
P.O. Box 84  
Sterling, Kansas 67579  
(620) 257-7900  
tremainelaw@gmail.com

# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Published in High Plains News/The Rawlins County Square Deal on Thursday, February 26, Wednesday, March 4 & 11, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RAWLINS COUNTY KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Pamela Sue Thomas, Deceased Case No. 2025-PR-000020

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Alexander A. Thomas, duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator de Bonis Non of the Estate of Pamela Sue Thomas, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the cost be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Administrator de Bonis Non of the Estate of Pamela Sue Thomas, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability. You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the District Court of Rawlins County Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

ALEXANDER A. THOMAS  
ADMINISTRATOR DE BONIS NON

BROWN, CREIGHTON & PECKHAM  
308 Main -- Box 46  
Atwood KS. 67730  
(785)-626-3295  
ATTORNEYS FOR EXECUTOR

# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Published in High Plains News/The Goodland Star-News on Friday, February 20, 27 & Wednesday, March 4, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

Andrew House, Plaintiff vs.

Case No. SH-2026-CV-000005

CD & Barbara Hopper, Kansas Department of Revenue; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, trustees, creditors, and assigns of such defendants as may be deceased; the unknown spouses of the defendants, whether deceased or living; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors, and assigns of such defendants as are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of such defendants as are or were partners or in partnerships; the unknown guardians, conservators, trustees of such other defendants as are minors or otherwise under legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased,

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED AND DESIGNATED AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Sherman County, Kansas by Andrew House, praying that title to property stated in the Petition be awarded to the Plaintiff and you are hereby required to plead to the Petition on or before the 6th day of April, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. M.T. in the District Court of Sherman County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment will be entered upon the Petition.

Andrew House, Petitioner

# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Published in High Plains News on Wednesday, March 4, 2026

## Cheyenne County

Fund Balances as of: 01/31/2026

001	GENERAL	\$4,986,763.92
002	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$1,858,645.05
003	SPECIAL MACHINERY	\$261,498.98
005	NOXIOUS WEED	\$90,583.44
006	NOXIOUS WEED SPECIAL FUND	\$151,718.68
007	SPECIAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT	\$1,417,974.00
008	Solid Waste Landfill Closure	\$493,631.15
009	CAFETERIA PLAN	\$686.08
012	MVR-DL	\$1,435.00
013	VIN-STATE	\$25,632.26
014	RURAL FIRE	\$98,894.60
017	DIVERSION FUND	\$24,887.60
018	CO ATTNY BAD CHECK FUND	\$2,913.77
019	REG OF DEEDS TECH FUND	\$21,055.93
020	OFFENDER/CONCEAL CARRY	\$10,119.54
023	RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TAX	\$123.12
024	16/20 M TRUCKS	\$148.50
028	SPECIAL ALCOHOL & DRUG	\$35,387.36
029	SPECIAL PARKS & REC	\$6,758.92
032	E-911	\$260,395.95
033	UNCLAIMED FUNDS	\$4,548.09
035	INSUFFICIENT CHECK	(\$5.00)
036	ADVANCED TAX-NON BUDGETED	\$25,752.44
038	DRIVERS LICENSE	\$151.50
039	SPECIAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	\$660,760.52
041	MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	\$17,861.74
043	MOTOR VEHICLE FUND	\$3,385.46
044	STATE SALES TAX	\$115,056.42
046	CURRENT TAX	\$132,030.91
050	TAX FORECLOSURE	(\$1,457.04)
054	COUNTY REDEMPTION	\$65,081.48
055	DELINQUENT PP TAX	\$14,175.25
059	ATTORNEY FUND	\$1,058.05
061	Health Insurance Reserve	\$194,784.87
069	MORTGAGE REGISTRATION	\$95.00
072	CLERK TECH FUND	\$9,397.00
073	TREASURER TECH FUND	\$16,397.00
074	Spec Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$225,203.75
085	EQUITABLE SHARING FEDERAL	\$13,578.14
089	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	\$400.00
126	ARPA	\$3,480.00
130	EMS Building	\$20,464.15
135	CPR	\$2,689.77
140	Public Transit	\$189,973.07
148	COMMERCIAL VEHICLE FEES	(\$54.97)
150	PBC-Home for Aged	\$1,299,634.31
207	CN CITY COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION	\$690.00
208	EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND	\$2,749,567.80
210	CCH/COUNTY HEALTH	\$3,816.00
211	PRAIRIE DOG	\$20,110.57
213	AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$166,174.52
214	O & G Valuation Depletion Fund	\$118,008.91
215	MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$577,198.31
220	GRANTS	\$46,586.73
225	HFA CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$827,407.70
		<b>\$17,073,265.30</b>
	FNB BANK	\$5,877,614.75
	WESTERN STATE BANK	\$2,786,506.97
	CASH ON HAND	\$400.00
	THE BANK	\$8,408,743.58
		<b>\$17,073,265.30</b>

I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, I help me God.

County Treasurer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 25 DAY OF February 2026

NOTARY PUBLIC - State of Kansas  
SHARRISA ANDRIST  
My Appt. Expires: 07/11/2027

County Clerk/Notary Public

# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Published in High Plains News/The St. Francis Herald & Bird City Times on Thursday, February 26, Wednesday, March 4 & 11, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

Adams Bank and Trust, Plaintiff vs.

Rasiel Espino, Kansas Department of Case No. CN-2026-CV-000004 Revenue; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, trustees, creditors, and assigns of such defendants as may be deceased; the unknown spouses of the defendants, whether deceased or living; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors, and assigns of such defendants as are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of such defendants as are or were partners or in partnerships; the unknown guardians, conservators, trustees of such other defendants as are minors or otherwise under legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased,

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED AND DESIGNATED AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Cheyenne County, Kansas by Adams Bank & Trust, praying that title to property stated in the Petition be awarded to the Plaintiff and you are hereby required to plead to the Petition on or before the 9th day of April, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. CST in the District Court of Cheyenne County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment will be entered upon the Petition.

Adams Bank & Trust, Petitioner

# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Published in High Plains News/The Norton Telegram on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. 1(T)

NOTICE OF HEARING ON KANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BONDS

A public hearing will be held on the 24th day of March 2026, in the offices of Kansas Development Finance Authority, 534 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 800, in Topeka, Kansas at 9:00 a.m., or soon thereafter, on the proposal for the Kansas Development Finance Authority to issue its Agricultural Development Revenue Bonds for the Project(s) numbered below, in the respective maximum principal amounts. The Bond(s) will be issued to assist the respective Borrower (the "Beginning Farmer") named below (who will be the owner and operator of the respective Project) to finance the cost in the amount of the Bond, which is then typically purchased by a lender bank ("Lender") who then through Kansas Development Finance Authority, loans the bond proceeds to the Borrower for the purposes of acquiring the respective Project(s) as described below. Each Project shall be located as shown:

Project No. 001193 Maximum Principal Amount: \$163,735.00. Owner/Operator: Gavin M Braun; Description: Acquisition of 160 acres of agricultural land and related improvements and equipment to be used by the owner/operator for farming purposes (the "Project"). The Project is being financed by the Lender for Gavin M Braun (the "Beginning Farmer") and is located at the Northwest Quarter of Section 28, Township 2, Range 24, Norton County Kansas, approximately 8 miles west of Norton, Kansas then 2 miles north of US Hwy 36.

Each Bond when issued, will be a limited obligation of the Kansas Development Finance Authority and will not constitute a general obligation or indebtedness of the State of Kansas or any political subdivision thereof, including the Authority, nor will it be an indebtedness for which the faith and credit and taxing powers of the State of Kansas are pledged, but each Bond will be payable solely and only from amounts received from the respective Borrower, the obligation of which will be sufficient to pay the principal of, interest and redemption premium, if any, on each Bond as and when it shall become due.

Interested individuals may participate in the public hearing in person or via conference call. Please call (844)-621-3956 and use conference identification number 145 880 8929 followed by # to join the conference.

At the time and place fixed for the hearings, all individuals who appear will be given an opportunity to express their views for or against the proposal to issue any specific Bond for the purpose of financing the respective Project, and all written comments previously filed with the Authority at its offices at Suite 800, 534 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas, 66603, will be considered. Additional information regarding any of the projects described above may be obtained by contacting the Authority at the address of its offices shown above.

Kansas Development Finance Authority  
Rebecca Floyd, President

# •PUBLIC NOTICE•

RESOLUTION 2026-004

Published in High Plains News/The Norton Telegram Wednesday, February 25, and Wednesday, March 4, 2026. 2(T)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-004  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CONDITIONS UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL CODE AS TO PROPERTY LOCATED AT

601 WASHINGTON STREET, ALMENA, KANSAS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALMENA, KANSAS:

**Section 1:** Pursuant to Article 2A Chapter 8 of the code of the City of Alma, Kansas, it is hereby deemed necessary to cause the abatement of conditions which have been determined to be injurious to the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the community or conditions which are detrimental to adjoining property, the neighborhood and the city.

**Section 2:** That the property owner(s), Kristen L. Leibhart and Kenneth L. Gibson, have been given a notice and order of violation; that the property owner, tenant and agent were personally served with the notice and order of violation; that said property owner, tenant and agent was given a notice and order of violation and said notice required them to alleviate the exterior conditions, including all conditions in the yard of the property; that the property owner did not request a hearing before the governing body, that the governing body finds that the property owner(s) has not abated the nuisances within the time specified under Article 8-2A09; and that the property owner(s), tenant or agent has not remedied or abated all of the conditions within the specified deadlines.

**Section 3:** That it is found by the Governing Body that the property located at 601 Washington Street Alma, Kansas and more particularly described as:

The West 90 feet of Lots Eleven (11) and Twelve (12), in Block Eleven (11) Original Town, now the City of Alma, Norton County, Kansas.

with the owners described as Kristen L. Leibhart and Kenneth L. Gibson, are in violation of Article 8-2A08 with the following conditions:

Item	Violation	Conditions
1.	Piled fencing materials	8-2A08(b)(1) Yard conditions
2.	Dilapidated fence in need of removal	8-2A08(b)(2) Structural conditions

**Section 4:** That it is found by the Governing Body that there shall be an order of abatement of the conditions on the premises described in Section 3 above. That this order of abatement shall include the removal of items as specifically described in Section 3, Items 1, which may include trash, abandoned vehicles, personal property, lumber, masonry products refuse and equipment. That the owner/tenant shall have ten days after the passage of the Resolution to abate the conditions causing the violation. The Public Officer/Code Enforcement officer shall be authorized to abate said conditions named herein, if said yard conditions continue at the end of ten (10) days after the passage of this resolution, and shall be authorized to abate said conditions named herein, if said yard conditions continue at the end of ten (10) days after the passage of this resolution, and shall be authorized to abate the structural conditions if the same continue at the end of forty-five (45) days after passage of this resolution.

**Section 5:** That notice of the cost of the abatement or removal incurred by the City shall be given to the owner/tenant/agent. That if said costs are not paid within 30 days, the costs of the abatement or removal shall be collected and assessed as special assessments and charged against the lot or parcel of land on which the nuisance was located, pursuant to Alma City Code 8-2A14 for collection pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1,115.

**Section 6:** That this Resolution shall become effective after its passage by the governing body. That a copy of this Resolution shall be personally served upon the owner/tenants/agent of said property in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, or as further described in Alma City Code Article 8-2A14.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the governing body of the City of Alma, Kansas on this 17th day of February, 2026.

Attest:

Cathy Rivera  
City Clerk

Ethan Hays  
Mayor

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**•PUBLIC NOTICE•**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRUCE E. BISHOP**  
 Published in High Plains News/The Norton Telegram on Wednesday, February 18, Wednesday, February 25, and Wednesday, March 4, 2026. 3(T)

**IN THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DEPARTMENT**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE**  
 Case No. NT-2026-PR-000002

OF  
**BRUCE E. BISHOP, Deceased.**  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:**  
 You are hereby notified that on the 3rd day of February 2026, a petition has been filed in said Court by Michael Bishop praying admission of foreign will to probate and record without administration; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 30th day of March, 2026, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. of said day, in said Court, in the City of Norton, in Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

MICHAEL BISHOP, *Petitioner*  
 MATTHEW W. BISH (#24126)  
 FOULSTON SIEFKLIN LLP  
 1551 NORTH WATERFRONT PARKWAY, SUITE 100  
 WICHITA, KANSAS 67206-4466  
 PH. (316) 267-6371  
 FAX (316) 267-6345  
 mbish@foulston.com  
*Attorneys for Petitioner*

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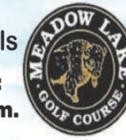
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SPORTS

# Lady Jays defeated by Devils

**VARSITY**  
Coach Cheri Brooks' Lady Jays took on Oberlin Red Devils Tuesday, February 10 at home. The first point of the game came from junior guard Chloe Cox for two points. Sophomore guard Caroline Fahrenbruch made a three point basket with an assist from junior Emma Collins with 2:44 left in the quarter. The final points of the quarter came from senior post Audrey Bina who made a two point basket off an offensive rebound. Norton trailed 7-20 in the first quarter.

In the second quarter the Lady Jays had two players score. Audrey Bina had a two point basket at 7:48. Leah Clark sank two free throws at 6:52. Norton Lady Jays trailed 11-31 at half-time.

"I was proud of the girls for coming out after half-time and playing with more confidence and being aggressive. In the first half we had too many turnovers, weren't playing our best defense, and struggled to knock down shots that the girls are typically successful with. In the second half the girls did a much better job blocking out and not giving Oberlin second shot opportunities, especially in the 4th quarter. Emma Collins, Audrey Bina, Leah Clark, and Caroline Fahrenbruch led our team in rebounding," said Coach Brooks.

The Lady Jays scored 20 points in the fourth quarter to help cut the lead down. Chloe Cox hit a three point shot at 6:09 off an assist from Caroline Fahrenbruch. The favor was returned

when Cox found Fahrenbruch open for a three point shot with 5:23 in the fourth. Cambrie Cox found sister Chloe open two minutes later for another three points. Cambrie Cox added two more points off made free throws. Emma Collins converted a layup into three points with a steal and made a free throw after being fouled. With 2:17 left in the quarter Chloe Cox hit another three point basket (assist Fahrenbruch) causing the Red Devils to call a timeout to regroup. The Lady Jays continued to attack the baskets scoring four more points. A basket from Leah Clark fortwo with 1:32 left, and a shot from Cassidy McClain with 20 seconds left. The Lady Jays were able to cut the lead to just 12 by the end of the game, but fell 40-52.

The Lady Jays shot 41% from 2 point range and 67% from the free throw lane this evening. The team earned 10 steals led by Emma Collins-4, and 1 steal for Cox, Cox, Fahrenbruch, Bina, Clark, and McClain. The Lady Jays gathered 21 defensive rebounds and 11 offensive boards. Collins-8, Bina-8, Fahrenbruch and Clark 5 each.

Varsity Box Score:

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Oberlin	20	31	40	52
Norton	7	11	20	40

PTS	3's	FT	2's
Chloe Cox	12	2 - 3	
Audrey Bina	4	- - 2	
Caroline Fahrenbruch	6	2 - -	
Leah Clark			

4	-	2	1
Emma Collins	6	-	2
Kassidy McClain	4	-	2
Cambrie Cox	4	-	2
Team Totals	40	4	6
			11

**JUNIOR VARSITY**

Coach Sheridan Ewy's: "Our JV only played 1 quarter against Oberlin since they have low numbers out. Although it's not a lot of playing time it's better than none. We came up short by 3 points but I was proud of our effort. Oberlin had 2 girls who scored all their 13 points. Knowing where they are on the court would have helped us defensively on contesting their buckets and preventing them from scoring. Late in the game I regret immensely for not calling a time out to set up a play for our team to execute. We have 1 week left in our JV season and I am looking forward to growing together in all of our phases in the game and as a team!"

Junior Varsity Box Score:

	Q4
Oberlin	13
Norton	10

PTS	3's	FT	2's
Greeley Sproul	4	- - 2	
Kynleigh Poire	4	- - 2	
Teyah Jacobs	2	- - 1	
Team Totals	10	- - 4	

# ESPN shows up for Devils



BY JENNIE ANDERSON

In a powerful show of school spirit and unity, the high school boys wrestling and basketball teams brought big-league energy to the gym Tuesday night, setting up an ESPN-style announcers table to cheer on the girls basketball team in their first-round matchup against the Lady Railers of Ellis.

Complete with headsets, suit coats with shorts and Hawaiian embellishments, handmade stat sheets and a hand painted "ESPN" logo, the boys transformed a corner of the gym into their

own broadcast station. Between play-by-play commentary, and enthusiastic sideline "reports," they kept the crowd energized from tipoff to the final buzzer. The creative setup paid off as the girls delivered a commanding performance, securing a decisive victory over the Lady Railers in the opening round of the playoffs.

"We just wanted to show them the same support they give us all season," said one of the junior basketball players, who served as the night's lead "announcer." "They come to our matches and games, so we figured we'd

bring some extra hype for them."

The student section quickly fed off the energy. Each fast break was met with dramatic commentary, every three-pointer followed by over-the-top highlight calls. The final buzzer sparked cheers not only from the packed bleachers but also from the "broadcast desk," where the boys wrapped up the night with a celebratory sign-off.

The boys basketball team had defeated the St. Francis Indians the previous night in their first round of sub-state playoffs.

# Sainty wrestlers make history



Dayton Fromholtz, Madison Siegfried, Henzely Matthier and Cheyenne Labarge come home from the State Tournament with hardware. Fromholtz placed 4th, Siegfried and Labarge each brought home a 5th place metal and Matthies brought came home the 100 pound champion. photo/Holly Hingst



Junior Emma Collins grabs the rebound before the Red Devils players can. The Devils beat the Jays 52-40.

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April 6 and April 20  
Todd Pankratz, MD

**Dermatology**  
March 17 and April 21  
Tara Gillespie, APRN-C

**Pulmonology**  
March 12  
Dr. David Cantral

**Nephrology**  
April 24  
Dr. Abhisekh Sinha Ray

**Endocrinology**  
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Dr. Sheba Ashgar

**Rheumatology**  
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**Urology**  
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## Lady Cougars move on in Sub-State

BY ALAYNA CARSON

The Cheylin Cougars boys varsity basketball team kept their postseason run alive with a hard-fought sub-state victory over the Golden Plains Bulldogs and earned the opportunity to move on and face the Sharon Springs Wildcats on March 28.

With the season on the line, Cheylin delivered a complete team performance built on defense and working together. From the opening tip, their defensive pressure forced tough shots and limited Golden Plains' rhythm, while rebounding helped close out possessions and prevent second-chance points.

Offensively, Cheylin relied on balanced scoring and smart shot selection. Andrew Wright (#5) led the way with six

points, providing steady leadership and efficiency. Kohen Pochop (#11) added four points while making his presence felt inside. Andrew Mitchell (#0) contributed two points and key hustle plays, while Pablo Ruiz (#3) and Arturo Medina (#1) added to the team effort by moving the ball and staying active within the offense.

Rebounding proved to be a difference-maker, as the Cougars controlled the glass and stayed physical throughout the contest. Every possession mattered in the postseason atmosphere, and Cheylin responded with patience and teamwork.

Beyond the numbers on the scoreboard, what truly defined the night was the Cougars' team chemistry. After every made basket, teammates exchanged smiles and celebrated

together. Encouragement came after every good moment, whether it was a three-pointer, a defensive stop, or a free throw. When mistakes occurred, players were quick to offer reassurance rather than frustration. That positive energy carried from the bench to the floor and kept momentum in Cheylin's favor.

This game not only tested skill, but also mental toughness. The Cougars remained composed during pressure moments, trusting one another and playing selflessly. Their communication on defense and willingness to share the ball on offense reflected a team that has grown together over the course of the season. The victory extended Cheylin's season and gave them the chance to compete for a deeper postseason run.

## Cougars lose to Sharon Springs



The Lady Cougars cheer on the Cougars during their game. Unfortunately the game did not end like they wanted and the Cougars basketball season came to an end.

BY ALAYNA CARSON

The Cheylin Cougars boys varsity basketball team saw its season come to an end with a 68-29 loss to the Sharon Springs Wildcats in postseason play. While the outcome was not what the Cougars had hoped for, the game marked the conclusion of a season of growth, resilience, and perseverance.

Sharon Springs established momentum early, taking a 16-12 lead after the first quarter. Cheylin competed hard in the opening frame, staying within reach thanks to steady offensive possessions and defensive effort. However, the Wildcats extended their lead in the second quarter, building a 32-16 advantage by halftime.

The third quarter

proved challenging, as Sharon Springs pushed the score to 50-25 heading into the final period. Despite the difference, the Cougars continued to battle and look for opportunities offensively. The final score stood at 68-29, closing the chapter on Cheylin's season.

Pablo Ruiz (#3) led the Cougars in scoring with 11 points, including a three-pointer. Andrew Wright (#5) added five points, also connecting from beyond the arc for one of Cheylin's three-pointers on the night. Kohen Pochop (#11) contributed four points, while Andrew Mitchell (#0) added four of his own. Arturo Medina (#1) chipped in three points, and Anniston Wigington (#25) rounded out the scoring with two points.

Although the scoreboard

reflected a tough matchup, the Cougars continued to show effort on both ends of the floor. Players remained supportive of one another throughout the game, and this determination reflected the character this team built over the course of the season.

The loss brings Cheylin's final record to 8-13. While the year had its ups and downs, the Cougars demonstrated improvement, teamwork, and dedication from start to finish. The lessons learned through competition and hard work will carry forward into the offseason and next year. Though the journey ended against Sharon Springs, the foundation built this season gives Cheylin something to build upon for the future.

photo/courtesy

## Franklin is 106 State Champion



Freshman Corbin Franklin is crowned the winner at districts after beating Xzander Donner of Russell. Franklin also beat Donner to take the State Championship. Corbin is the son of Nathan and Amanda Franklin. photo/courtesy

Corbin Franklin came away from State Wrestling as the 106 Champion. In the finals he met Xzander Donner of Russell. The men have wrestled each other three times this season. Donner beat Franklin the first two times they met but Franklin turned the tables at districts where he beat Donner for the

championship. They met again in finals for the State Championships. By the end of the second wperiod no points had been awarded to either wrestler. For the start of the third period Franklin chose bottom. Franklin then got an escape and a take down with 1:30 left in the match. The final score was 4-0 with Franklin

securing his win.

On the girls side Maggie Holle made it into the finals and finished in second place with a 3-14 loss to Averie Counts of Russell. During the State Tournament Holle reached a milestone in her carrier winning her 100th match. She ended the season with 102 wins.

## Junior Wrestlers show out at League

The boys and girls JH Wrestling Team finished their season in very high fashion on Feb 19th in St. Francis Ksn. After all was said and done, the boys captured the title of League Champions for the 3rd year in a row and our 6th in the last 8 years. They outdistanced runner-up Oberlin by 26 points. On the girls side, our 4 young ladies came away with 2nd place in our League to Oberlin. Oberlin had seven ladies competing.

Our League Tourney is a little different than other leagues, as we only have four teams that compete in wrestling. Rawlins Co, St. Francis, Oberlin and Tribune. Quinter, Sharon Springs and Dighton do not have wrestling, although years ago, Dighton and Quinter had very respectable programs. So with such few teams, the league invited Stanton Co. and Leoti to help fill brackets. So in the girls side, Stanton Co. brought 10 girls and Leoti had eight, they finished 1st and 2nd

in the team race. Oberlin was 3rd but crowned NWKL Champs and we were 4th but 2nd in league. We were short two ladies that day also. Our ladies have always done very well at league, we just need more of them out. If we could get numbers like Oberlin, Oakley, Norton, and several others around here, we could most assuredly be a team to contend with every year!

Winning medals for the girls were: Kendall Cavenee-2nd, Jada Wade-4th, Mattie Carroll-League Champion and Sydney Birt-League Champion! Way to go ladies!

The boys also competed well. We had 14 men hit the mats. Here are all the medal winners:

- Adam Kopriva-3rd
- Parker Juenemann-2nd
- Jayden Grafel-4th
- Callen Hurst-League Champion
- Hunter Horinek-League Champion
- Andy Hanson-League Champion
- Carter Terry-2nd
- Jackson Youngblood-3rd

- Mason Eatherly-4th
- Kian Brogan-2nd
- Ivan Romero-2nd
- Owen Bearley-2nd
- Jeffery Wade-League Champion
- Miles Klein-League Champion

We coaches are very impressed with the growth these guys and gals made over the season. We were very young and didn't have much experience but made up for it with lots of enthusiasm and hard work. Can't wait to see what next year brings.

Thank you Coaches-Jeff Samson and Kendrick Woody for keeping this old man young, thank you teachers and administrators for providing all we need and to Vanessa and her lunche crew for keeping us fed at times, to Coach Deone Horinek for keeping us on time and for live streaming some of our events. But mostly to all the parents that entrusted your athletes to us if but for just a little while. All of us had a blast!

## Cougar of the Week!

This student was nominated for the Cougar R.

This nomination says "We have gotten a new student and he has been a great friend. He helps the new student without being asked and has showed him around when needed. He has made the new student feel welcomed and accepted."

This week's Cougar of the Week is Banks Hendricks!! Congratulations Banks!



Freshman Maggie Holle celebrated winning 100 matches at the State Tournament. She finished the season with 102 wins. Maggie is the daughter of Orrin and Beth Holle.

photo/courtesy

SPORTS

# Rawlins County Buffs seasons come to end



Lady Buffs listen as coach Mike Lankas gives them instructions on their next plays during a time out. *photo/JodieWright*

**BY COACH MIKE LANKAS**

The Lady Buffs hit the road Thursday for a tough Sub-State first-round matchup against the Smith Center Redmen. Right out of the gate, Camden Franklin dished a beautiful assist to Kayte Shively, who converted the basket and completed the three-point play. Unfortunately, Franklin was injured on the play and had to be subbed out. This hurt our game plan, as we were going right into our press. While watching film, I noticed they struggled against it. That early substitution threw the team out of rhythm, leading to an easy Smith Center bucket. Though Franklin returned, she wasn't at full strength. After leading 3-0 early, the Buffs soon trailed 12-5. In the second quarter, Tessa Bolen sparked the team with a timely three-pointer as the Buffs tightened things up, heading into halftime down 14-9. Coming out of the break, Ayla Moses made a steal and a quick bucket to bring the Buffs within three, 14-11. But the Redmen responded with a 9-0 run, pushing

the lead to 23-11. Once again, the Buffs showed their trademark fight. Bryn Kastens attacked the basket, drawing a foul and sinking both free throws. Shively connected on a three, Josie Ginther added a bucket, and Bolen followed with another score to close the gap to 23-20 heading into the fourth. Smith Center, however, got hot from beyond the arc, hitting three of four three-pointers and 75% of their free throws in the final period to pull away. Franklin did her best to keep the Buffs in it, scoring six of her nine points in the quarter. Despite shooting just 21% from the field and giving up too many offensive rebounds in the first half, the Lady Buffs finished the season proud of their accomplishments. The team closed the year with a 12-10 record and several marks in the record books: Rebounds per game: 36.8 (3rd all-time) - led by Shively with 267 (5th best single season), followed by Ginther (120) and Kastens (93). Assists per game: 13.1 (8th all-time) - Franklin

(80), Bolen (61), and Ayla (46). Steals per game: 16.9 (tied for 1st all-time) - Franklin broke Stacey Walker's 1991 single-season steals record with 103, followed by Shively (65), Ginther (47), and Bolen (45). Made 3-pointers: 89 (2nd all-time as a team) - Franklin (38, 4th best single season), Ayla (25, 13th all-time), and Shively (14). Franklin wrapped up an impressive season with 421 points (5th all-time) and a remarkable career ranking: 6th in total points (956), 2nd in assists (221), 3rd in made 3s (79), 3rd in made free throws (235), and 1st in career steals (271). Shively also secured her place among the program's greats, finishing 3rd in career points (1,067), 2nd in rebounds (867), 5th in steals (200), 9th in made 3-pointers (52), and 4th in made free throws (223). This has been a fun team to coach. I wish the seniors the best of luck in their next adventures and look forward to seeing what our underclassmen can do next year.



Assistant Coach Nathan Ketzner listens as the seniors give sophomore Bentley Lare sage advice. Left: Coach Ketzner, Bentley Lare, Joseph Dozbaba, Xanthier Brenn, Trey Carlson, Shaun Lare. *photo/JodieWright*

**BY COACH TYLER LARE**

Sublette (Sub-state): The 2025-26 season came to an end last night with a sub-state loss to Sublette. It took a great shooting night to beat us as both teams took nearly the same amount of shots (they shot three more shots). Sublette shot 60% and we shot 42% from the field. They shot well from the 3 point line too. We made some adjustments but it didn't seem to make any difference. We believed that we could battle back and put some pressure on them in the second half but they were

not going to be denied. Their hot shooting continued. It was a tough loss. We were not ready for the season to end. We were playing well going into the postseason, but we ran into a team that played better on that night. We finished the season with a record of 12-10. I am very proud of this group and we took steps in the right direction to continue to build on the successes that were made this season. I look forward to seeing what this group can accomplish in the seasons to come. I want to thank the family members and

community members that came to the game to support us. We earned a home sub-state game and it was nice to have you there. It doesn't go unnoticed by the boys and coaches. We appreciate having your support. We also say goodbye to our Seniors: Emma, Shaun, Trey, Xanthier, and Joseph. You all have brought so much to the program. I cannot express how appreciative I truly am. You all helped set the standard in many different ways that our players will follow in the years to come. You will be missed. THANK YOU!!!!

**~ JANUARY ~  
STUDENT OF THE MONTH  
Krayton Minium**

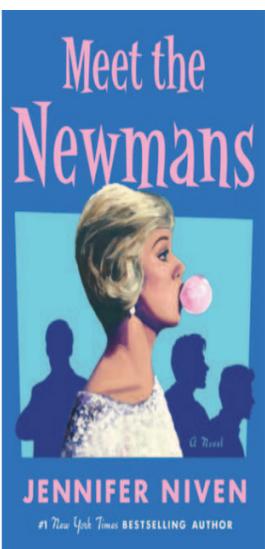


The Golden Plains Elementary Student of the Month for January is Krayton Minium. Krayton is the son of Cody and Sunnie Jo Minium of Selden. He is in Kindergarten and enjoys sledding with his brother. His favorite color is blue and his favorite subject is science. Krayton's favorite food is strawberries. He has a twin brother and two dogs. He enjoys playing scatterball and basketball. *photo/Brandy Spresser*

## BOOK REVIEW

### "Meet the Newmans"

By Jennifer Niven



c.2026, 2025  
Flatiron Press  
\$29.99  
400 pages

Each week we will bring you a new book review. These reviews are submitted to us by Terri Schilchenmeyer

BOOK REVIEW SPONSORED BY:

Don't look now, but everybody's watching. Of course they are; you want all eyes on you because you're the star. Your thoughts, your choices, your entire life is on display when fame and fortune are yours. It's a dream come true as long as, like in the new novel, "Meet the Newmans" by Jennifer Niven, you enjoy living in a fishbowl. Del was late again and Dinah Newman was tired of waiting for him. Until recently - until he started working well past dark and sleeping in his office above the garage - Del was never late. And now supper was ruined and so, maybe, was Dinah's life. For a dozen years, she, Del, and their two sons, Guy and Shep, had been the stars of Meet the Newmans, a warm family show on TV, but their old contract was up soon and it didn't look good for a thirteenth year. Meet the Newmans

still filmed in black-and-white, when all the other shows of the 1964 season were in color. News of the Women's Movement and Civil Rights were on every American television except, apparently, the Newmans. Shep and Guy were grown up now. The world had moved on; Del and Dinah hadn't. And there Dinah sat, with her perky dress and pearls, the stench of burnt sweet-and-sour pork in her nostrils, thinking about the L.A Times journalist who'd recently interviewed her. The woman made it clear that Dinah Newman - that Meet the Newmans - was in need of an upgrade. And maybe, thought Dinah, she was right. Dinah knew her marriage was slipping. Guy had a male roommate, which was gossip fodder and she didn't want to face facts but CBS was trying to force him into a marriage he didn't want. Shep had his own singing career and he was

out of control. And now Del was late. Again. Dinah didn't know what the future would hold for her family or for the show. She also didn't know that a calamity had happened that would change everything. If you are someone who pays strict attention to a timeline, "Meet the Newmans" might baffle you at first. There's a Pulp-Fiction kind of backward vibe in the opening chapters of this Mad Men sort of novel that doesn't make sense, so you just have to trust. No worries; it gets straightened out and even as this novel plays with time, you won't want to let it go. The characters are (mostly) likable and perfectly crafted; even the ones who are vile in a feminist-1964 way are well-done. They help author Jennifer Niven blend American culture from six decades ago with a modern message, pull-



Jennifer Niven  
Photo by Justin Conway

ing younger readers into history while reminding those of a Certain Age why they're happy those bad old days are over. "Meet the Newmans" is a very enjoyable novel for fans of nostalgia, especially of nostalgic TV channels or mid-century movies. It's sweet, funny, and entertaining, there's no profanity in this book and it's safe to share among generations, so watch for it.



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SPORTS

# Colby Lady Eagles State Runner-Up in 4A



The Colby High School Lady Eagles were state runner-up at the 4A state wrestling meet. Individual results are as follows:

100lbs.—Adrian Salcido, 4th.  
120lbs.—Faith Hoover, 5th.  
135lbs.—Morgan Hills, State Champion, back-to-back.  
155lbs.—Dallis Stieben, 3rd.  
170lbs.—Makenzi Rhymor,

5th.  
The Colby High School boys wrestling team finished 8th overall. Individual results are as follows:  
113lbs.—Julian Salcido, 4th.

120lbs.—Ryder Dempewolf, State Champion, third year  
132lbs.—Talon Wark, 6th.  
150lbs.—Eric Schroeder, 5th.



## Trojans head to playoffs

BY SILAS HORINEK

The Colby Trojans basketball teams faced off against Garden City for their final home games on Saturday, Feb. 28. The big highlight of the day was the men's team upsetting Garden City to clinch a playoff berth.

Coach Jerrod Stanford commented, "I am extremely proud of these young men. It was a lot of fun to be able to compete with them on Saturday. Everyone was making the right basketball play and playing for each other." The Trojans defeated the Broncobusters in a blowout, 80-60. The game did not start how it finished as Colby faced a deficit from the start, going by down 10 in the

first half. They sparked a comeback to go on a run and take a one-point lead at halftime. The Trojans went on a 10-1 run to start the second half and kept going with a dunk fest by G. Njenga with seven dunks and N. Keutchka adding three, and they cruised past the Broncobusters in a landslide, 80-60. A. Diallo led the Trojans with 24 points, followed by D. Cason with 22, and G. Njenga with 18. N. Keutchka also played great with a double-double.

Coach Stanford added, "We need to keep playing for one another on Wednesday and then get ready for the region 6 tournament. They will play nationally ranked Butler CC on the road on

Wednesday to finish their regular season and then head to the postseason.

The women also played the Broncobusters, but they lost, 45-60. Colby got down early in the first quarter and faced a nine-point gap after the first quarter. The Trojans narrowed the gap in the next quarter, with crucial shots to end the half down, 21-25. They played just as well in the third, and out scored Garden City, and finished the third quarter down only 3. Colby could not come back though and got blown away in the end to fall to Garden, 45-60. D. Ulmer and J. Kruleski both had 12 points to lead the Trojans. They will also play Butler CC and then head to the playoffs.

## Wrestlers earn post season recognition

Two members of the Colby Trojans men's wrestling team have earned postseason recognition, as Cah'mari Johnson and Bob Tatum were named All-KJCCC selections following strong performances throughout the 2025-26 season.

Johnson, a 165-pound sophomore from Kingsland, Ga., earned second-team All-KJCCC honors after putting together a competitive campaign highlighted by a fourth-place finish at the NJCAA Region VI Championships. He closed the season with a 9-5 overall record, with five of those matches coming at the regional

tournament, one of the toughest stretches of the year. At the Region VI tournament, Johnson went 3-2 against a loaded bracket, battling to secure his fourth-place finish and All-KJCCC honors. Competing in one of the most balanced weight classes in the conference, Johnson consistently gave the Trojans stability in the middle of the lineup.

At heavyweight, Tatum capped a demanding season by earning third-team All-KJCCC recognition after finishing with a 22-24 overall record. The freshman from Tullahoma, Tenn., split time in conference action with fellow

heavyweight Kevaun Jones, helping solidify the Trojans' presence in the heavyweight division throughout the season. Tatum notched 22 victories and secured a crucial win at the NJCAA Region 6 Championships to earn a sixth-place finish. His regional performance added to a body of work that included consistent contributions in duals and tournament competition across the year.

Their All-KJCCC honors come as Colby prepares for the NJCAA National Championships, set to begin Friday (March 6) in Iowa. Five Trojans will make the trip to the national stage this season.

## Cheylin Weekly

March 9-14

### Monday, March 9th

Breakfast- Banana Bread, Fruit, Juice and Milk  
Lunch- Meatball Sub, Carrots, Fruit, Salad Bar and Milk

6:00 p.m. Board of Education Meeting

### Tuesday, March 10th

Breakfast- Sausage Biscuit, Fruit, Juice and Milk  
9:00 a.m. WKLL JH/HS Music Contest @ Almena  
Lunch- Chicken Fajitas, Fiesta Beans, Spanish Rice, Fruit, Salad Bar and Milk  
TBD HS BB State Boys Quarter Finals @ TBD

### Wednesday, March 11th

Breakfast- Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes Bites. Tri-taters, Fruit, Juice and Milk  
Lunch- 8th Grade Lunch - Cougar Bowl, Dinner Roll, Brownie, Fruit, Salad Bar and Milk  
TBD HS BB State Girls Quarter Finals @ TBD

### Thursday, March 12th

End of 3rd Term  
Breakfast- Stuffed Bagel, Fruit, Juice and Milk  
Lunch- Cheese Breadstick w/ Marinara Sauce, Green Beans, Fruit, Salad Bar and Milk  
6:00 p.m. or 8:00 p.m. HS BB State Boys Semi Finals

### Friday, March 13th

No School  
12:00 p.m. HS BB State Boys Semi Finals @ Emporia  
1:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. HS BB State Girls Semi Finals @ Emporia

### Saturday, March 14th

9:30 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. HS BB State Girls @ Emporia  
2:30 p.m. HS BB State Boys @ Emporia

## GRMC's Weekly Happenings

### MARCH

Outreach Specialty Clinics



- **AUDIOLOGY**  
Rachel McArthur, MD | March 12, 26
- **CARDIOLOGY**  
Stevie Bautista, PA | March 4  
Aaron Tyner, PA | March 11  
John Altman, MD | March 4
- **DERMATOLOGY**  
Kathani Vahabzadeh, MD | March 6
- **GASTROENTEROLOGY**  
Alexander Ende, MD | March 19, 26  
Jessica Ramirez, APRN | March 19, 26
- **GENERAL SURGERY**  
Charles Frankum, MD | March 20
- **NEUROLOGY**  
Matthew Loftspring, MD | March 16
- **NEUROSURGERY**  
Michael Rauzzino, MD, FACS | March 20
- **NUTRITION SERVICES**  
Karma Huck, RD, LD | March 10
- **OB/GYN**  
David Forschner, MD | March 18  
Laura Rokosz, MD | March 4
- **Telemedicine**  
➤ **ENDOCRINOLOGY** - Raafia Memon, March 12, 26  
➤ **NEPHROLOGY** - Girish Singhania, March 9  
➤ **RHEUMATOLOGY** - Christopher Liedke, March 10
- **ONCOLOGY**  
Robert Rodriguez, MD | March 3, 17  
Amanda Volchko, PA | March 10, 24
- **OPHTHALMOLOGY**  
Robert Courtney, MD | March 4  
William Richheimer, MD | March 25  
Andrew Zheng, MD | March 18  
Robert Fante, MD | March 27  
Alexandra Levitt, MD (Return in April)
- **ORTHOPEDIC**  
Benjamin Sears, MD | March 2  
Sean Baran, MD | (Return in April)  
Rajesh Bazaz, MD | (Return in April)  
Michael Eby, MD | (Return in April)
- **PAIN MANAGEMENT**  
Jeffery Meyer, MD | March 12, 13, 26, 27
- **PODIATRY**  
Thomas Eddy, DPM | Monday, Thursday, Friday
- **PULMONOLOGY**  
Anthony Khalifah, MD | March 26
- **UROLOGY**  
Srinivas Samavedi, MD | March 17
- **WOUND CARE**  
Jessica Gittinger, APRN | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday



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## SPORTS

# Goodland Cowgirls win post season game

BY RACHEL REDLIN

On Feb. 27, the Goodland Cowgirls played their first quarterfinal game against the Norton Bluejays. During the first quarter, Libby Cure (No. 2) landed a clean two-pointer, followed by baskets from Lauren Linton (No. 5) and Emily Stargell (No. 10). Stargell and Ally Cure (No. 4) each knocked down an excellent three-pointer. By the end of the first quarter, the Cowgirls held an eight-point lead and continued to extend it, holding Norton scoreless at the bottom of the second quarter. In the third quarter, Stargell and Cure each hit another three-pointer, with Cure adding additional points to widen the gap. By the end of the game, the Cowgirls secured a 15 point victory, winning 40-25. Ross Volkmer of NWKS Radio sat down with Coach Bill Biermann to discuss the sub-state win.

"The Cowgirls led throughout the entire game... but it definitely wasn't the prettiest game of basketball out there. Give credit to Norton - they kind of mucked

things up throughout. Bill, I know it was probably a frustrating basketball game from your perspective," Volkmer said.

"I thought we accomplished what we wanted to and got a great start. We had great energy early, and I told you Al was going to have a good game because of what she did in practice, and she came out ready to play. Hit a three, boom, off and running. Played pretty good out of the gate. I don't know what it was... our defense was pretty good. In these three-game series, sometimes it's hard to play three really good games, so hopefully that's our one that we didn't play the greatest; and we can build and play better in the semifinal game... and hopefully we play well enough to get into the final," Biermann said.

Volkmer asked what Norton was doing defensively and how the Cowgirls responded.

"When we got in and executed our offense, we got what we wanted, right? Our inability to see what they were doing and get where we needed to be...that switch was

not good, and we should be better than that," Biermann said.

"I thought Libby moved well tonight... I need to keep getting her healthy. Overall, some good things... our rebounding effort was horrible, but that's okay. We won - survive and advance. Let's keep going," he added.

Volkmer reflected on Libby's recovery.

"We need her to be back at full strength... and Ally's effort was solid tonight. That really jump-started us at the beginning of the game," Biermann said.

Volkmer and Biermann also discussed the team's three point execution.

"When we are comfortable, we shoot well... we've got to do a better job of calming down," Biermann said.

The Cowgirls now move forward to face their next opponent in the coming week.

"We are going to work really hard this weekend to come up with a good game plan and clean these things up. We better play sharper and more focused than we did today," Biermann said.

## Cowboys basketball season ends

BY RACHEL REDLIN

On Thursday, Feb. 26, the Goodland Cowboys played Southern Heights in their postseason game. Although Goodland had some impressive plays, they ended up losing 68-79, bringing their season to an end. Ross Volkmer of NWKS Radio once again sat down with Coach Dawson Raymer to discuss the game and how it unfolded.

"Coach, I know it's a hard loss and you never want to see a season end. But, man, a great effort tonight, I thought. I know you were looking for great effort tonight - I think you got that. You also had a very entertaining game. I thought this game kind of played how I thought it might be with a lot of points and up-and-down play," Volkmer recapped.

"Yep. You know, Ross, I think at the end of the day, if we could have just gotten a few more stops here and there, we could have pulled out with a victory. Or even offensively, just knowing kind of when the moment is... We had a couple turnovers down the stretch that cost us late in the game. But, you know, our guys battle. I could never not be proud of them for that," Raymer said.

Volkmer reflected that the Cowboys played great out of the gate, but Southern Heights fought back throughout.

"I think it just comes down to execution at times... At the end of the day, that's on me. We will go back to the drawing board and learn to be better there. That was kind of always our struggle...the middle half of the quarters each and every [this] year. We had a lot of young guys who had

never played on the varsity court before, Ross. It was all a learning experience for them, and for myself too," Raymer said.

Volkmer mentioned the top two scorers for the Cowboys this season, Braylon Mull (No. 4) and Konner Collet (No. 2).

"They were consistent all season long. They both finished tonight unofficially with 25 points each... They were spectacular, no doubt about it. You got great effort on the glass from Jaxon Miller, in particular with rebounds (No. 15)," Volkmer said. He went on to say the Cowboys needed a few more contributions from other players.

"We've got to put in a lot of work this summer... We need to get in the gym, because I don't ever want to experience this feeling again. And I hope the young bucks don't ever want to experience this again. At the end of the day, if they start hitting some shots, start running a little faster, it helps us all around," Raymer said.

This was Raymer's first season coaching the Goodland Cowboys, and Volkmer asked what he and the team took away from the year.

"I think from my vantage point, Ross, it's just learning how to execute. A little bit more paying attention to the details, both defensively and offensively. I think for the guys, it's the IQ and basketball knowledge out there. The first step is executing at a higher level both defensively and offensively," Raymer said.

Volkmer looked ahead to next season and noted the Cowboys would lose one of their biggest scorers.

"You're going to have to replace 17 points per game... and find more,"

Volkmer said, mentioning possible defensive-lockdown strategies. "What are you hoping to see from the guys and from yourself as you get year number two underneath you?"

"I think a little bit defensively is going to be switched up next year. I think we need to still get up and pressure the ball a little bit more. I talked to Coach Deeds... I think we've got to get better with rotations, learning to play in transition. Not that the guys didn't know how to play, but the style...I definitely think it starts defensively and pressuring the ball a little more," Raymer said.

Volkmer asked about development among the up-and-coming boys on the team. Raymer emphasized that it starts with breakfast club every day before weights at 5:30 a.m.

"I'm going to be with them at breakfast club, and this year I'll be with them in the weight room. We are going to be building those relationships, and I'm really going to emphasize the no-excuses mentality, because excuses are the bricks that build the house of failure. These young bucks, especially the freshman class and eighth grade boys who are stepping up... continuing to be better mentally and holding ourselves to a high standard. We are Goodland High School basketball. We've got to set the foundation, be accountable. How willing are you not to make excuses? I think it starts with myself," Raymer said. He also mentioned the importance of form shooting for young developing players.



Libby Cure shoots over the head of the Norton defender in the first playoff game of the post season. The Cowgirls won the game 40-25. photo / Jackie Elliott

### RCHC's Weekly Happenings



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### Schedule MARCH 2026

#### Cardiology

Dr. Sean Denney, March 5

#### Eagle Telemed Endocrinology

Dr. Sheba Asghar, March 6

#### Telemed Gastroenterology

Dr. John Riopelle, March 19

#### Eagle Telemed Nephrology

Dr. Richard Snyder, March 11

#### Eagle Telemed Rheumatology

Dr. Christopher Liedke, March 2, 17

#### Podiatry

Dr. Thomas Eddy, March 3, 10, 24, 31

#### Surgery and Consults

Dr. Charles Frankum, March 11

Dr. Brenda Kopriva, March 25

#### Rawlins County Health Center

Office Hours: M-F 8am-5pm  
Phone: 785-626-3211

#### Rawlins County Health Clinic

Hours: M-F 8am-5pm  
Saturday Walk-In: 9am-12pm  
Phone: 785-626-3241



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# St. Francis Community High School students win big at KSPA Regional Journalism Contests

Kansas Scholastic Press Association awards best work from across the state

LAWRENCE, KAN., Feb. 24, 2026 — The Kansas Scholastic Press Association is proud to announce the winners of the 2026 KPSA Regional Journalism Contest, which awarded the best student journalism from more than 1,800 entries across the state.

In the Regional Contest, students competed in 27 different categories and 11 different classifications organized by geography and school size. Students who finished first through sixth place earned the chance to compete in the state contest.

From St. Francis Community High School, the following students won awards:

- Marcy Moberly, Academics Photography, 3rd
- Eden Britton, Advertising Design, 5th
- Paola Ramirez, Advertising Design, 6th
- Alek Ramirez, Copyediting, 2nd
- Marcy Moberly, Copyediting, 3rd
- Nina Martin, Digital Illustration, 2nd
- Pierce Lohr, Digital Illustration, 6th
- Rachel Knauer, Editorial Cartoon, 2nd
- Nina Martin, Editorial Cartoon, 4th
- Brayden Helton, Editorial Writing, 1st
- Zane Jensen, Editorial Writing, 5th
- Isabella Bandel, Feature Writing, 4th
- Cheyenne LaBarge, Headline Writing & Design, 3rd
- Audrina Fernandez, Infographic Design, 4th
- Paola Ramirez, Infographic Design, 6th
- Maci Workman & Dailey Rose, Multimedia Storytelling, 1st
- Kaylee Doyle, Multimedia Storytelling, 2nd
- Nina Martin, News Page Design, 4th
- Camille Luncsford, News Page Design, 6th
- Camille Luncsford, News Writing, 1st
- Kira Sichler, News Writing, 3rd
- Presley Myers, Newspaper Sports Writing, 3rd
- Kaylee Doyle, Newspaper Sports Writing, 4th
- Camille Luncsford, Review Writing, 2nd
- Madison Siegfried, Social Media, 2nd
- Eden Britton, Social Media, 3rd
- Eden Britton, Sports Action Photography, 4th
- Maci Workman, Sports Action Photography, 6th
- Presley Myers, Sports Media Portrait Photography, 2nd
- Cheyenne LaBarge, Sports Media Portrait Photography, 5th
- Breck Lohr, Student Life Photography, 6th
- SammiJo Wieggers, Mason Rieger, Isabella Bandel, Video PSA, 2nd
- Andrew Andrist & Brecken Tiegs, Video PSA, 4th
- Carter Matthies, Video Sports Promo, 3rd
- Audrina Fernandez & Marcy Moberly, Video Story Package, 3rd
- Dailey Rose, Cheyenne LaBarge, Maci Workman, Video Story Package, 4th
- Kira Sichler, Yearbook Copywriting, 4th
- Madison Siegfried, Yearbook Copywriting, 5th
- Presley Myers, Yearbook Design, 5th
- Breck Lohr, Yearbook Design, 6th
- Breck Lohr, Yearbook Sports Writing, 3rd
- Eden Britton, Yearbook Sports Writing, 4th
- Audrina Fernandez & Madison Siegfried, Yearbook Theme & Graphics, 2nd
- Cheyenne LaBarge & Dailey Rose, Yearbook Theme & Graphics, 3rd

“Regionals push students to tackle a variety of challenges as they write stories on deadline or craft content to meet contest prompts,” KSPA executive director Barbara Tholen said. “I’m always impressed with the creativity that students bring to these contests.”

KSPA enlists the help of journalism teachers, professional journalists, university faculty members, and other journalism experts to judge the entries. In addition to receiving feedback on their own entries, students will also have the opportunity to view compilations of winning work.

That feedback can help guide students as they prepare entries for the KSPA State Journalism Contest. Based on results from the State Contest, KSPA will determine the sweepstakes trophy winners — the top schools in 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A. Students who finish in first through third place at state receive medals.

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*About KSPA: The Kansas Scholastic Press Association is an association of Kansas high school and middle school journalism programs. Its mission is to promote excellence in high school journalism publications and education. Please log on to learn more at [www.kspaonline.org](http://www.kspaonline.org).*



## School Menu

St. Francis Grade & High School  
March 9-13

### Monday

Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, yogurt cup, fruit cocktail, fruit juice choice, milk choice

Lunch: Sweet & sour chicken nuggets, seasoned brown rice, celery sticks, cherry tomato, fruit cocktail, milk choice

### Tuesday

Breakfast: Biscuit, sausage gravy, pineapple chunks, fruit juice choice, milk choice

Lunch: Super nachos, refried beans, spanish rice, pineapple chunks, fruit choice -canned, milk choice

### Wednesday

Breakfast: Scrumptious coffeecake, mango chunks, fruit juice choice, milk choice

Lunch: Italian dunkers, meat marinara, seasoned corn, tossed salad, mango chunks, fruit choice -fresh, milk choice

### Thursday

Breakfast: Western omelette, quesadilla w/ salsa, fresh grapes, fruit juice choice, milk choice

Lunch: Sloppy joe on a bun, tater tots, baked beans, grapes, fruit choice -canned, milk choice

### Friday

No school  
Parent Teacher Conferences

## SCHOOL MENUS 3-4-26 USD 211/212

### EISENHOWER ELEMENTARY

Breakfast/Lunch Menus:

Monday, March 9 - Breakfast: Sausage gravy, biscuit, fruit cocktail, apple juice; Lunch: Beef and noodles, whipped potatoes, green beans, mandarin oranges, cheese rolls

Tuesday, March 10 - Breakfast: Shipwreck, salsa, English muffin, peaches, orange juice; Lunch: Corn dog, sweet potato tots, pepper strips, fruit cocktail

Wednesday, March 11 - Breakfast: French toast sticks, warm syrup, pears, grape juice; Lunch: Scalloped chicken, corn, sweet heart pears, cucumber slices

Thursday, March 12 - Breakfast: Breakfast cake, pineapple chunks, grape juice; Lunch: Beef burrito, mixed veggies, rosy applesauce, baby carrots

Friday, March 13 - Breakfast: Oatmeal bar, mozzarella stick, mandarin oranges, apple juice; Lunch: Cheese pizza, tossed romaine salad with ranch, green beans, pears

Choice of white or chocolate milk served at each meal

March 16 thru March 20 - Spring Break - No School

### NORTON COMMUNITY HIGH + JR. HIGH

Monday, March 9 - Grab and Go Menu: French toast stix or cereal, fruit, juice; Lunch: Spaghetti or mozzarella cheese sticks, garlic bread, chocolate cake, fruit

Tuesday, March 10 - Grab and Go Menu: Donut, fruit, juice; Lunch: Chili frito or chef salad, cinnamon rolls, fruit

Wednesday, March 11 - Grab and Go Menu: Cinnamon toast crunch bar or yogurt and granola parfait, fruit, juice

Thursday, March 12 - Grab and Go Menu: Long John, fruit, juice, milk; Lunch: Soft or hard shell taco or chef salad, corn, fruit

Friday, March 13 - Grab and Go Menu: Muffin or breakfast tornado, crown tator tots, fruit, juice; Lunch: Fish wedge or corn dog, baked beans, fruit

Salad bar is offered every day and milk served at each meal

March 16 thru March 20 - Spring Break - No School

### NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday, March 9 - Breakfast: Assorted muffins, fruit, hash browns, sausage, juice, cold cereal assortment; Lunch: Chili, crackers, cheese sticks, cinnamon roll, fruit

Tuesday, March 10 - NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, March 11 - Breakfast: Biscuits and gravy, eggs, fruit, juice, cold cereal assortment; Lunch: Chicken nuggets, potato wedges, vegetable, fruit

Thursday, March 12 - Breakfast: Pancake on a stick, syrup, eggs, fruit, juice, cold cereal assortment; Lunch: Shephards pie, salad, vegetable, fruit

Milk is served at each meal. Students have the choice of chocolate or white.

March 16 thru March 19 - Spring Break - No School

# Spring Ahead!!!