

I-R Calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

CHICKEN FRIED STEAK SPECIAL: The 174 Bar & Grill at the Ellsworth American Legion post home, 645 W. 15th St., serves a chicken fried steak special. Doors open at 5 p.m. Meal includes mashed potatoes and green beans. Cost is \$15 per person. Come support your local American Legion.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER: The Wilson Chamber of Commerce hosts a Casino Night fundraiser at the Midland Railroad Hotel Barn, Wilson. For \$20, each participant will receive \$10,000 in fun money and two prize tickets. Games, including Texas Hold'em, Black Jack, roulette and craps, begin at 7:30 p.m. Prizes announced at 11 p.m. Cash bar.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

ANNUAL FISH FRY: The Wilson Knights of Columbus serve the annual fish fry at 11 a.m. at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Parish Hall, Wilson. Menu includes crispy talapia, butterfly shrimp, french fries, green beans, pasta salad, bread, dessert. For carryout orders, call (785) 632-0276.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

COUNTY BUSINESS: Ellsworth County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse meeting room. Information: 785-472-4161.

CITY BUSINESS: The Ellsworth City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT: The Caring Families Foundation conducts the annual Ellsworth County Community Easter Egg Hunt at 1 p.m. at the Ellsworth Health & Recreation Department T-ball fields. Age groups are 0-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7 and older. New prizes, golden tickets, books and yard toys. Don't forget your basket!

MUST-SEE TV: The Ellsworth County Historical Society will be presented a \$500 "Wins For Kansas" grant from KAKE TV and DeVaugh James Injury Lawyers during KAKE TV's 10 p.m. news broadcast.

MONDAY, MARCH 30

COUNTY BUSINESS: Ellsworth County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse meeting room. Information: 785-472-4161.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

THE GIFT OF LIFE: The American Red Cross Ellsworth community blood drive is from noon-6 p.m. at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 911 N. Kansas Ave., Ellsworth. To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter code EllsworthKS.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

COUNTY BUSINESS: Ellsworth County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse meeting room. Information: 785-472-4161.

CITY BUSINESS: The Wilson City Council meets at 6 p.m. at city hall.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

ANTIQUA TRACTOR PULL: Ellsworth American Legion Post 174, 645 W. 15th St., kicks off their upcoming Legionfest 2026 with an antique tractor pull at 11 a.m. The public is invited.

Correction

In the March 12 Independent-Reporter, the wrong street name was given in the Ellsworth City Council story. The correct street name is Jelinek Street, not Yellow Neck Street. We apologize for the error.

I-R Obituaries

Charles Raymond Dolezal (1938-2026)



Charles Raymond Dolezal passed away on March 16, 2026. He was 87 years old (32,043 days). He was born on June 23, 1938, son of Charles and Tillie Dolezal. He married Virginia Lee Grubb on April 23, 1960. Charles graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1956 and Brown Mackie College with an associate of business degree in 1964. He also attended Fort Hays State University. Charles was a draftsman and surveyor for Van Gundy and Associates for 18 years, manager of Post Rock Rural Water District for five years and owner of the Chicken Roost Restaurant for 10 years. During his younger years, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding horses with his dad and competing in calf roping with his horse Cindy.

He was extremely proud of his grandchildren and was a permanent fixture in the stands at their high school/college sporting events. He and Virginia enjoyed traveling — cruises to Alaska, through the Panama Canal and around the Hawaiian Islands, annual trips to Table Rock Lake and visiting his ancestral home, touring Prague in the Czech Republic, were some favorites. He and Virginia also enjoyed traveling south to Bandera, Texas, in the winter with their camper for many years. There, they enjoyed jam sessions with new friends and warmer weather. He was an avid golfer and took many golf trips with family and friends. He grew many fruits and vegetables in his garden at the farm, and enjoyed spending time tinkering there after retiring in 1997. In his later years, he enjoyed playing cards at the Senior Center, poker with his buddies, viewing endless westerns, spending time with his family and watching Mollie B. Polka.

Charles is survived by his wife Virginia of the home; son Daniel Dolezal (Sherry), Valley Center, Kan.; daughter Pamela Harms (RJ), Topeka, Kan.; grandchildren Christopher Dolezal, Olathe, Kan.; Jennifer Grittman (Mason), Dodge City, Kan.; Matthew Dolezal (Briana), Olathe; Jacob Harms (Sarah), Wamego, Kan.; and Eric Harms, Kansas City, Mo.; and great-grandchildren Madilyn, Kenzie and Andrew Grittman, Dodge City, and Owen and Henry Harms, Wamego.

Visitation will be Thursday, March 26, 2026, from 1-8 p.m. at Parsons Funeral Home, Ellsworth, with family present to greet visitors from 5-7 p.m. Funeral services will be Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth, with burial following at Ellsworth Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church c/o Parsons Funeral Home, P.O. Box 45, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Condolences can be left at parsonsfh.com.

Edward "Ed" Douglas Cheshire (1940-2026)

Edward "Ed" Douglas Cheshire, 85, passed away March 6, 2026, with his family by his side, at his home in Great Bend, Kan. He was born May 30, 1940, in Evansville, Ind., to Griffin "Jake" and Edra (Larkin) Cheshire. Ed eloped with Martha Springfield July 7, 1967, in Hays.

Ed grew up in Medicine Lodge, Kan. He graduated with the class of 1958 and went to Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan. He went on to pursue his Master of Education degree from Emporia State University. He moved to Bushton, Kan., in 1962 and worked for many years teaching fifth grade. Ed was an active member of the

Bushton United Methodist Church, city council, served as mayor, was a volunteer on the fire department and Lions Club. He started the junior high football program during his time in Bushton. He coached and refereed all sporting activities for many years. He loved coaching and watching his daughter's sporting activities.

Ed transitioned to Holyrood Junior High, teaching science and math when the school was consolidated. He transferred his Lions Club membership as well. He was a lifetime KNEA member. He retired from teaching full time in 1994, and substituted at many schools until 2003, when Martha also retired from teaching.

When it was nature and peace Ed longed for, he and the family would load up to go camping and cast a line. He loved all sports and outdoor activities, including hunting. He and Martha found contentment with the casino life for 25 years, often attending concerts along the way. He was happiest when he hit a big jackpot on a small bet. They never missed the opportunity to stop and visit their children and grandchildren. Ed and Martha made Great Bend their home in 2015. His greatest joy was being around his wife, daughters, family and friends.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 58 years, Martha Cheshire; daughters Cindy Scheidel (Denis), Kansas City, Mo.; Kristi Seemann (Louis), Olathe, Kan.; Lori Flesburg (John), Boonville, Ind.; Jenny Ayres (Gary), McPherson, Kan.; and Jessica Godwin (Rick), Kansas City, Mo.; and grandchildren Alex Seemann, Ariel Seemann, Ava Seemann, Kathryn Flesburg, Joey Flesburg and Megan Scheidel. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Billie Rayford Cheshire and infant daughter Kelly Lyn Cheshire.

Graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Bushton-Farmer Township Cemetery with Pastor Diana Webster presiding. Memorials may be made to Golden Belt Home Health and Hospice, The Community Scholarship, Inc. (to benefit Central Plains graduates), in care of Bryant Funeral Home, 1425 Patton Rd., Great Bend, KS 67530.

Shirley Ann McWhirt Yakesch (1937-2026)

Shirley Ann McWhirt Yakesch, 88, passed away Tuesday, March 10, 2026, in Ellsworth, Kan. She was born April 30, 1937, on the family farm in rural Russell County, Kan., to Edward and Emma (Gallart) Brack. Shirley married Gayle McWhirt on Sept. 15, 1962. To this union, three children were born, Don, Raelene and David. Shirley later married Frank Yakesch, Jr. on Jan. 16, 1998.

Shirley was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Lincolnville, Kan. She enjoyed playing the church organ at an early age and played it for 60-plus years. She was active in LWML and was a faithful servant of Jesus.

Shirley is survived by her daughter Raelene Heitschmidt (Todd), Holyrood, Kan.; son David McWhirt (Gina), Franklin, Tenn.; grandchildren Tim Garth (Sarah), Ashley Chandler (Cody), Chelsea McWhirt (Nathan Elsey), Victoria Dillehay (Drew) and Samantha Marker (Kyle); and 10 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband Gayle; second husband Frank; son Don McWhirt; daughter-in-law Deborah McWhirt; and brothers Everett and Orville Brack.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at St. John Lutheran Church, 512 N. Wilhelm Ave., Ellinwood, Kan. A luncheon at the church will follow the service. A private family burial will be held at Wilson Cemetery prior to the service.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. John Lutheran Church of Lincolnville, c/o Parsons Funeral Home, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Condolences can be left at parsonsfh.com.

I-R

ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER

(USPS 461-680)

Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter
Morris Multimedia

Karen Bonar
Publisher/Editor

DEPARTMENTS
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Graphic Design — Bill Beckmeyer
Ad Billing/Circulation — Dawnae Bunch

The official newspaper for Ellsworth County,
USD 327, USD 112 and the cities of Ellsworth,
Holyrood, Kanopolis, Lorraine and Wilson.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Single Copy — \$1.50
Per Year in Ellsworth County — \$55
Per Year Elsewhere — \$65
Online — \$50

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The Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter is published weekly at 304 N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, Kansas. Periodicals postage rate paid at Ellsworth, KS 67439.
POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 507.1.5.2); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: Send address corrections to Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter, 304 N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, KS 67439. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphic content, in whole or in part, without permission, is strictly prohibited.

WILSON Continued from Page A2

purchase new front brakes for the Wilson Fire Department tanker No. 555 at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

• Council member Charlene Zelenka noted that Susan Thielen is donating a smart board to Lang Memorial Library on behalf of her aunt, Joan Weigel.

• Council member Cathy Smith said Logan Eck will be overseeing Parks and Recreation youth programs.

• Bills in the amount of \$12,241.63 were approved, as was payroll in the amount of \$9,759.66.

• Soukup discussed changing Ordinance 882 with the council. It deals with right-of-ways and utility companies filling out a permit. He said utility companies should get a waiver from filling out the permit, as the ordinance was originally intended to have contractors and individuals file a permit. The council agreed by consensus.

Kriley will contact City Attorney Theresa Staudinger so an amendment can be drawn up to the ordinance for the exception.

• Soukup also requested the council codify, by ordinance, that the city does not allow any permanently structured flag poles to be installed at the city cemetery.

• Soukup said he has been working on applying for a grant to pay for the replacement of the overhead doors on the city equipment shed with solid, non-insulated doors. The grant is through the Smoky Hills Community Foundation. However, to fill out the paperwork, Soukup needs to know what amount the city is willing to accept if the full amount is not awarded.

After further discussion, the council approved a motion to ask for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 and to accept not less than \$15,000.

The next meeting of the Wilson City Council will be at 6 p.m. April 6 at city hall.

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on City recognized holidays.

The bus will be taken out of the
service area and/or time:
Mar. 19 – to Salina
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Mar. 31 – to Hays

Contact Wilson City Hall at
785-658-2272 for more information.

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