

CHRONICLES, FROM 10A

6. Carefully flip and cook the other side for another 3-4 minutes, ensuring the marshmallow and peanut butter melt into a gooey, delicious mess. Keep a close eye to prevent burning!

7. Remove from heat, let cool just a bit, then slice in half or into smaller pieces to enjoy.

And you know what? Through all the chaos, the endless chores, and the mountain of laundry that never seems to shrink, one thing remains certain. God's got our backs and is with us every step of the way. Even when we're exhausted, debating whether to make that grilled cheese or just settle for a snack, He's there. Laughing right along with us (or maybe shaking His head, but loving us anyway). Let's be honest, if even Jesus needed rest, then maybe it's okay for us to take an Easter nap too! After all, He knew the importance of taking time to recharge, so I say we honor that wisdom. So, as we hustle and bustle through this busy week, remember to keep your faith strong, find those moments of peace, and don't forget to laugh along the way. Always end each day with gratitude, a little humor, and a reminder that everything's better with a little Peace and Chicken Grease!

RCH Board of Directors Feb. 24th meeting minutes

Board members present at the February 24th RCH Board of Directors regular meeting were: Brad Plumer (Chair), Shelbe Darnell, DC (Vice Chair); Anna Muir (Secretary); Dan Sanchez, MD; and Jay Casey. Hospital Staff members present were Jeff Van Dyke (CEO), Stephanie Bjornstad, Tierra Brown, Sheila Hachmeister (CFO), Karen Harris, Steve Law, April LeMarr, Samantha Pfannenstiel, Heather Rinehart, William Stahl (COO), Josie Thompson, and June Karlin, recording secretary. Others present were Kevin Laney and AJ Thompson.

Chair Brad Plumer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

After the approval of the Consent Agenda as presented, the Board turned their attention to the Holistic Pain Management presentation from Kevin

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ROOKS COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE JOHN W COUSE,

Deceased

Case No. RO-2026-PR-000008

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 Jerrod Couse, an heir of John W. Couse, deceased, praying for the determination of the descent of decedent's property, real and personal, or interests therein, owned by the decedent at the time of death; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 13, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., of said day in said court, in the City of Stockton, in Rooks 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.

Jerrod Couse
Petitioner

Terry L. Cikanek
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Attorney for Petitioner

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DURING ONE OF THE EARLY ROUNDS of the Sunflower State Spelling Bee, Veidyn Holmes took his turn at the microphone. Holmes, a student at Plainville Junior High, represented Rooks County at the Kansas Sunflower State Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 21st. He earned the title of Rooks County Spelling Bee Champion after winning that competition in February.



VEIDYN HOLMES traveled to Kansas Wesleyan University for the Kansas Sunflower State Spelling Bee. Cheering him on at the competition were his parents, Addie and Josh Holmes, his grandfather Jon Holmes, and his uncle Elliott Holmes.

SPELLING BEE, FROM 1A

sible for tracking every word and verifying spelling accuracy.

Across ten rounds, competitors took turns at the microphone, each vying for the coveted first-place title and a spot in the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee this summer in Washington, D.C. Kellian Peterson of Ottawa County claimed that honor, sealing his victory with the word "ossificatory" — meaning of or relating to the process of bone formation.

Veidyn Holmes of Plainville Junior High represented Rooks County with distinction. He had earned his place at the state contest by correctly spelling "depots" at the Rooks County Spelling Bee in February. At the state level, Veidyn correctly spelled three words before bowing out in the fourth round, tripped up by "oscitation" — the formal word for yawning. With most competitors eliminated in the first three rounds, his 27th-place finish out of 93 contestants speaks to just how competitive the field was. Veidyn noted that despite the challenge, "I had a lot of fun at the contest" — and he has every reason to be proud of his performance.

Cheering Veidyn on were his parents, Addie and Josh Holmes, his grandfather Jon Holmes, and his uncle Elliott Holmes, all of whom made the trip to support him.

Flames, False Alarms, and a Defiant Burn Ban: Rooks County's Busy March in Fire Calls

By **Virgi Laska**
Sentinel-Times

It was a busy March for fire departments across Rooks County, with Stockton, Plainville, and Woodston crews responding to a string of calls — some dangerous, some unexpected, and at least two that shouldn't have happened at all.

The month opened with a serious structure fire on March 9th, when the Plainville Fire Department was called to a garage fire at 501 South Colorado. The blaze was significant enough to bring in the Stockton Fire Department for mutual aid, and crews worked the scene for about an hour and a half before getting it under control.

Two days later, on March 11th, Plainville was back at it — this time responding to a grader ditch fire along K-18 at 22 Road,

a half mile south. Firefighters made quick work of it, clearing the scene in roughly 30 minutes.

The action continued on March 13th, when Plainville was paged for mutual aid to Paradise for a reported large grass fire. When crews arrived, they found something far more stubborn: 150 round bales fully engulfed in flames. Just when firefighters thought the day was over and headed home, they were paged out again — this time to Stockton, to help battle the Bow Creek Fire. By the time they finally cleared the scene, they had spent roughly eight grueling hours fighting fire.

The afternoon of March 17th brought a field fire to Plainville's doorstep. At 5:17 p.m., crews were called to BB and 7 Road for a milo field that had ignited — the cause was traced back to an electric

line. Firefighters spent 30 to 40 minutes on the scene before the fire was fully extinguished.

Mid-month also brought a preventable call: a Stockton resident burning trash in a barrel watched it quickly spiral out of control, prompting firefighters to scramble to the scene. Crews had it knocked down in 20 to 30 minutes — but the incident came with a pointed reminder. Stockton Fire Chief Ray Niblock stressed that the call came in during an active county-wide burn ban, which remains in effect. "Everyone must follow the ban rules," Niblock said, urging anyone with questions to contact the Rooks County Sheriff's Office directly.

Before sunrise on Sunday, March 22nd, Plainville crews were jolted awake at 5:30 a.m. for a ditch fire along K-18

Laney and AJ Thomas. They presented a review of patient volumes since the program's inception, along with a financial performance summary for 2024. Thomas reported in 2025, this positive trajectory has continued, with the addition of 145 unique new patients, indicating strong organic growth and ongoing community engagement. Holis-

tic Pain Management consistently surveys patients and Rooks County Health Center (RCH) has achieved a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 100. This result reflects not only the high quality of care provided by the clinical team, but also the patient experience RCH and its staff deliver.

At 6:17 p.m. Anna Muir requested a ten (10) min-

ute executive session for contract negotiation purposes. Dan Sanchez seconded the motion. No further discussion took place, and the motion carried 5-0.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:27 p.m. Shelbe Darnell made a motion to approve the Chief Executive Officer contract changes as discussed. Anna Muir seconded the motion. No further discussion took place, and the motion carried 5-0.

April LeMarr provided an update on Quality & Performance Improvement. LeMarr and Van Dyke participated in patient rounding prior to the meeting and received positive feedback on the nurses' promptness, the excellent care from all staff, and the quality of the food.

Samantha Pfannenstiel provided the Communication & Development, and Rooks County Health

KANSAS KLIPS

Only grocery store in Ellis to close its doors

ELLIS—Ellis Hometown Food Center, the town's only grocery store, is expected to close in the coming weeks. Jeff Geschwentner said the store does not have a set closing date and will remain open until the inventory is sold. He said it could also close in late April or early May. The market will continue stocking perishable items such as meat, produce, dairy, and frozen goods, while letting dry goods sell out. Geschwentner said the store is not formally listed for sale, but he would sell it to an interested buyer. He added that hours will likely be reduced as the store nears closing. (Hays Post)

Kansas State Fair receives \$99,000.00 State Grant to help preserve historic Ye Old Mill

HUTCHINSON—The Kansas State Fair has been awarded a \$99,000.00 Attraction Development Grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce to support the preservation and renewal of Ye Old Mill, one of the Fair's most iconic and historic attractions. Originally built in 1915, Ye Old Mill has carried generations of Kansas families through its winding waterways and remains one of the most beloved traditions of the Kansas State Fair. It is also one of only three remaining Old Mill-style attractions in the United States, making its preservation especially important to Kansas history and tourism. (Kansas State Fair Press Release)

Police ask for help to ID northwest Kansas hit-and-run suspect

SHERMAN COUNTY—Law enforcement authorities are requesting help in locating a person involved in a hit-and-run accident that occurred Friday, March 20th, in Goodland, according to a social media report from Goodland Police. The accident involved a semi truck, causing significant damage. The police released security camera images of the alleged suspect and the vehicle. If you have any information, please contact them at 785-890-4570 or Dispatch at 785-890-4575 (Hays Post)

Hays woman arrested for alleged DUI crash; knocks out power in part of downtown

HAYS—A 24-year-old Hays woman was arrested on multiple charges following an alleged DUI crash in downtown Hays. Hays Deputy Police Chief Tim Greenwood said Jennifer Alondra Martinez was arrested early on Sunday morning, March 21st, following an alleged hit-and-run crash involving a parked vehicle and a power box. He said officers were notified of the crash at about 2:30 p.m. Greenwood said Martinez was at 10th and Ash Streets after fleeing the scene and appeared heavily impaired. She was arrested for alleged DUI, battery on a law enforcement officer, no driver's license, no insurance, and reckless driving. (Hays Post)

Arrest in McPherson County homicide investigation

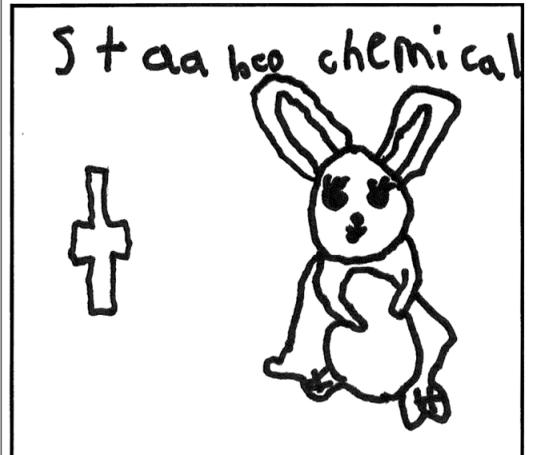
MCPHERSON COUNTY—The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and the McPherson County Sheriff's Office made an arrest connected to the January 31st death of Joshua Soden. On March 23rd, at around 5:15 p.m., Daniel T. Hawkinson, 18, of McPherson, was arrested by KBI agents at the McPherson County Sheriff's Office. Hawkinson was arrested on a warrant for voluntary manslaughter. He was then booked into the McPherson County Jail. All suspects are presumed innocent unless or until found guilty in a court of law. The McPherson County Attorney is expected to prosecute the case. No further information can be released. (KBI News)

Highway near 13 Road. The culprit: a blown fuse on a power line that had ignited the roadside. Firefighters had the situation under control within about 20 minutes.

On Thursday evening, March 26th, the National Weather Service spotted what appeared to be smoke near P Road and 31 Road and issued a call to the Woodston, Stockton, and Plainville Fire Departments. Crews responded—only to find blowing dust playing tricks in the fading light. No complaints, though. "We're glad it was called in so it could be checked out," departments noted. The NWS routinely monitors for fire activity and coordinates with local departments—it was their tip that had also brought crews to the Bow Creek Fire earlier in the month. That same night,

Woodston had its own call to answer—a ghostly reminder of a controlled burn from a month prior. A tree along Highway 24 was spotted smoldering, a lingering ember refusing to die out. Firefighters moved in and cleaned up the area, putting the last of those old flames to rest.

March went out much as it came in—with a fire that didn't need to happen. On Sunday afternoon, March 29th, Woodston firefighters were called to the 300 block of Main Street after yet another resident decided to burn despite the active ban. As conditions across the county remain dry and winds remain dangerous, officials are once again urging the public: the county-wide burn ban is in effect, and it is not optional. Don't burn. Lives and property depend on it.



Artwork by Hudson Hageman for

Staabco Chemical