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The Official Newspaper for Lincoln County Kansas

Volume 138 No. 9

www.lincolnsentinel.com

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 \$1.25

ALL ADVERTISING AND NEWS CONTENT DUE BY 12:00 P.M. FRIDAY TO: LINCOLNKSNEWS@GMAIL.COM | 141 W. LINCOLN AVE. PO Box 67 LINCOLN, KS 67455 | VOICEMAIL - 785-524-4200

The Bank of Tescott to **Acquire First Bank of Beloit**

The Bank of Tescott is thrilled to jointly share a significant milestone in our journeys as locally owned and operated community banks. Tescott Bancshares, Inc., the bank holding company for The Bank of Tescott, has entered into a definitive agreement with First National Bankshares of Beloit, Inc., to acquire all the issued and outstanding shares of capital

stock of First Bank of Beloit. A Legacy of Strength and Commitment

For over 137 years, The Bank of Tescott has been dedicated to supporting individuals, businesses, and farmers with exceptional banking services. With nearly \$500 million in assets and branches in Lincoln, Tescott, Salina, and Lindsborg, we are proud of our role as a trusted financial partner.

First Bank of Beloit, established in 1884, has long been a cornerstone of the Beloit community, with over \$110 million in assets. Their deep-rooted commitment to customer service and community involvement makes this partnership a perfect fit. Together, we will build on our shared values and create even more opportunities for our customers and employees.

This acquisition isn't just

providing greater value to the people served.

The combination of The Bank of Tescott and First Bank of Beloit will introduce a wider range of financial products, enhanced online and mobile banking solutions, and more personalized banking experi-

By expanding more into North Central Kansas, we can better serve a larger customer base while continuing to focus on local, relationship-based opportunities for professional growth and development.

There will be no immediate changes to banking services. Customers will receive clear and timely communication about the transition as we move forward.

The acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions including regulatory approvals. We anticipate the process to be finalized by late June

"We are excited about this



is being acquired by



We are committed to maintaining the high standards of employment set by both banks. Culture is of top priority, and we strongly feel both banks align in that capacity. We plan to integrate the about growth — it's about teams smoothly, focusing on

opportunity to unite with First Bank of Beloit, which shares our commitment to customer service excellence and community involvement.

A Word from Our Leadership Larry Fief, President & CEO of The Bank of Tescott:

"We are excited about this

opportunity to unite with First Bank of Beloit, which shares our commitment to customer service excellence and community involvement. Together, we will strengthen our position in the market and continue to provide innovative and reliable banking solutions," said Larry Fief, President and CEO of The Bank of Tescott. "Our vision statement is 'Committed to Those We Serve, and this alliance with First Bank of Beloit ensures that commitment continues

for generations to come." "In an ever-changing banking industry, planning for the future always means doing what is best for our customers," Aaron Lampert, President and CEO of First Bank of Beloit said. "After careful consideration, we have decided to merge with The Bank of Tescott, a decision made with the long-term best interests of our customers and the Beloit community in mind. The Bank of Tescott offers a wide range of superior products while upholding the same banking philosophies in which we believe. In a challenging market, this transition will allow us to remain competitive, expand our products and services, and continue providing the high level of service our customers deserve and expect."

Stertz and Pahls Shine in Halftime Performances

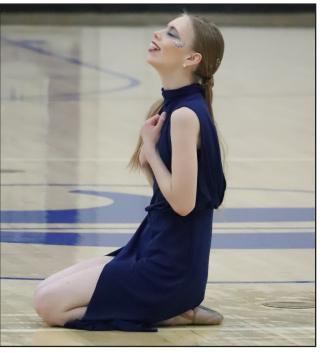
By Jyll Phillips, Lincoln-Sentinel

Two local seniors took center stage during their final regularseason home basketball games, delivering memorable halftime performances.

At Lincoln, Braxtyn Stertz performed her senior dance solo, captivating the crowd with her talent and passion during halftime of the Leopards' last home game.

Meanwhile, at Sylvan-Lucas, Hannah Pahls took the court one final time last week, twirling her baton in her last halftime performance as a Mustang.

Both seniors showcased their dedication to the performing arts, leaving a lasting impression as they wrapped up their high school



BRAXTYN STERTZ (Photo by Becky Rathbun)



HANNAH PAHLS (Photo by JR Pahls)

Kansas Financial Scholars Essay Contest

Five (5) \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who will continue their education in Kansas through the Kansas Financial Scholars Essay contest. The scholarship is designed warding.

to recognize students who place importance on managing their money well, right from the start. Having goals and the proper information to attain them will prove re-

Any public, private or homeschooled Kansas high school senior who will attend a school of higher learning in Kansas is eligible.

due by April 1, 2025. For re- State Bank Commissioner.

quirements and applications, visit KansasFinancialScholars.

The Kansas Financial Scholars scholarships are sponsored Entry forms and essays are by the Kansas Office of the



One week left in February Match Month

generated from donations to to the generous matching the Post Rock Community Foundation (PRCF) during

Thousands of dollars will be the month of February thanks the Patterson Family Foungrants offered by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and

dation. A donation made before month end will benefit nonprofit organizations in the

#298 and USD#299 in impactful ways.

Trivia Night a success

By Jyll Phillips, Lincoln-Sentinel

Attendance was high at the second annual CYO Trivia Night held at Parish Hall Saturday, February 22. Teams of six competed to answer a total of 60 questions designed to give their brain cells a workout.

Eleven tables of teams of six (66 participants) enjoyed a "homemade at Parish Hall" Italian meal of manicotti and stuffed chicken breast created by volunteer Erin Behrens assisted by CYO students.

Volunteers, students and

sponsors made the event a class act, with beautifully set tables, students dressed as Italian waiters. The event was well-organized and fun for all. Table #11, the CRS team of Carly Errebo, Marcia and Terrence Kraft, Shayla Errebo, Abby Gerleman and Jyll Phil-

lips took first place after a coin

toss with Scott Rathbun, representing Table #4. This is a contest to watch in future years. These two teams were tied in 2024 as well.

Volunteer parent Jim Metz led the event from the microphone calling out the questions while Traci Bates and Levi Bates kept track of attendees, tallied results and presented them to the group. Kelly Schneider stayed busy all evening serving wine, Sangria and beer.

This fundraising event will help send 15 youth from St. Patrick's Catholic Church to the 2025 CYO Convention held in Indianapolis, IN. The group takes a delegation of students to the national event alternating years where they experience breakout sessions as well as general sessions held at Lucas Oil Stadium (Colt Stadium Indianapolis).



The CRS team of Table 11 took first at Trivia Night. (L-R): Terrence Kraft, Shayla Errebo, Carly Errebo, Abby Gerleman, Marcia Kraft, and Jyll Phillips. (Courtesy Photo)

Leap Day - February 29, 2024

This year brings a special day that only happens once every four years—Leap Day! February 29 is added to the



calendar to keep our solar year aligned with the Earth's orbit around the sun.

Fun facts about Leap Day: People born on Leap Day, called "leaplings," technically only have a birthday every four years! Folklore suggests that Leap Day is a day when women can propose to men, a tradition dating back centuries. The chances of being born on Leap Day are about 1 in 1,461, making it a rare birthday!

Enjoy this extra day—Leap Day 2024 is here, so make it count!

Wheat.....\$5.54 Cash prices courtesy of Ag Mark

Milo\$4.06

Soybeans.....\$9.45

Cash Grain

vespercc.org web site.

Community Calendar

Thursday, February 27

Lincoln: 12 pm February "What's Up" Chamber Luncheon – Teacher Appreciation @ Jr/Sr High

USD 298: 2A HS Basketball Sub-State Quarterfinals

USD 299: HS Boys BB Sub-State @ TBD; Wrestling State Tournaments @ TBD; 3:45pm Desi Mandt Training @ Storm Shelter

Friday, February 28

USD 298: Students Dismissed @ Noon/ PM Workday; 2A HS Basketball Sub-State Quarterfinals; 2A HS Girls Basketball Sub-State Quarterfinals - TBD USD 299: ACT Registration Deadline; HS Girls BB Sub-State @ TBD; Wrestling State Tournament @ TBD

Saturday, March 1

Lincoln: 5:30 pm BINGO @ VCC USD 298: 1A Semifinal Sub-State USD 299: Wrestling State Tournament @ TBD

Sunday, March 2

Lincoln: 11 am LCIC: Chili & Garden Bar Fundraiser @ Lincoln Senior Center

Monday, March 3

USD 298: 8:30pm - PTL Music @ Sylvan/ Lucas; 1A Semifinal Sub-State USD 299: PTL Music Festival (JH) @ Sylvan

Tuesday, March 4

USD 298: 2A Semifinal Sub-State USD 299: HS Boys Sub State @ TBD; JH Scholar Bowl Meet @ Tipton

Wednesday, March 5

USD 298: 2A Semifinal Sub-State; Job Olympics

USD 299: FCA meeting during seminar; FFA Discussion Meet @ Junction City; HS Girls BB Sub-State @ TBD; Job Olympics in Manhattan; 1pm NPL Meeting @ Beloit

Commodity Distribution held the third Wednesday every other month at the Lincoln Senior Center. (September, November, January, March, May, July)

incoln County Historical Society meets third Wednesday of each month @ 5 p.m.; incoln County Historical Museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Call

CEDF meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Courthouse basement. Call 524-8954 for meeting time.

The Lincoln County Commission meets each Monday, and the last working day of the month, at the courthouse.

Family fun at Vesper Community Center

food and wholesome family fun on Saturday March 1st at the Vesper Community Center, located at 1247 N 120th Rd, Lincoln KS 67455 1 mile south of Hwy 18 in Vesper. Doors and the concession stand open at 5:30pm and bingo begins at 7pm. Volunteers will be serving grilled burgers, all beef hot dogs, chicken noodle soup, chocolate and coconut cream cream pies, ice cream sundaes, and popcorn.

Featured desserts include cheese cake, cinnamon rolls and chocolate chip cookies that are all baked from scratch on premises. Due to popular demand, a double batch of the fresh made chicken noodle soup is being made.

Earlier this month, there were 28 bingo winners and Sandra Brummer from Hunter won the Jackpot Round.

19 Vendors participated at the Vesper Farm Show this year and was well attended despite the cold and a little snow. The event was organized by Jodie Wiebke. Mona Gerstmann and Hadley Wiebke volunteered in the

concession stand. Vendors had great gimmees and gave away a lot of nice door prizes. Rose Koster Plains Coop, Deb Brown won the Dutch Oven from Lincoln Building Supply, Kim Ellis won a gift bag from Bennington State Bank. Glennis Bruning won a gift basket from MD Farms & Kayties Pies, Shele Ellis won a gift box from 4 Corners Bee Farms, Trisha Wisdon won 10 tubes of 219 grease from

Donley Enterprises. Janet Hiiter won a ash prize from Travis Scale. Howard Wehrmann won a knife from Post Rock Knives. Citizens State Bank gave out a large gift basket and cattle pole, Diamond W Feed gave away a

bucket and scoop, and CKMHC and Bank of Tescott also gave away nice gifts too. Anyone who needs contact info from any of the participating vendors can find links for them at the vespercc.org website.

The facility has undergone substantial improvement including the addition of 4 more concrete handicap parking spots and an expanded drop off ramp. Funding for the concrete, millings and delivery was provided by the Post Rock Community Foundation and the labor was volunteered by Danny Huehl and Kansas Midwest Homes & Movers. The Vesper facility is avail-

There will be bingo, delicious won an egg basket from American able to rent for wedding receptions and other gatherings. For more information go to the www.

> The all volunteer run Vesper Community Center is supported by private donations and grants from Dane G Hansen, Post Rock Community Foundation, Lincoln County Wind Economic Benefit fund and local businesses, so be sure to thank Bennington State Bank, Kansas Homes and Movers, Seirer's Clothing, Citizens State Bank & Trust, Meyer Tire and Lube the Bank of Tescott and the Lincoln Building Supply and S&S Auto service and towing, 181 Ag Supply, when you patronize these businesses.



Sandra Brummer was the jackpot winner. (courtesy photo)



CYO raises funds for Convention

St. Patrick's Catholic Church CYO members dress the part as Italian waiters, ready to serve meals at the 2nd Annual Trivia Night at Parish Hall. The event was a great success, helping raise funds to send 15 youth to the 2025 CYO Convention in Indianapolis, (courtesy photo)

Hunter Café Grand Re-opening

preciate her years of service," said



tesy photo)

Monday, March 3 Chicken & Noodles, Mixed Veggies. Beets, Rosey Pears, Cookies, Roll & Milk

Tuesday, March 4 Hot Beef Sandwich, Potatoes w/Gravy, Green Beans, Fruit & Milk

Wednesday, March 5 Tomato Soup, Cheesy Bread Stick, Crackers, Mixed Fruit, & Milk

Thursday, March 6 Western Bean Bake, Tomato & Cucumber, Fruit Crisp, Cread & Milk

> Friday, March 7 Fish Fillet, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Strawberry Shortcake, Bread & Milk

Menu is subject to change.

Call 785-524-4738 before 9:30 a.m. to reserve a lunch. The suggested donation for people over 60 or with current paperwork \$4.00. For people without paperwork or under 60, meals are \$7.00, mandatory.

Vesper Community Center

BINGO

SATURDAY, Mar 1st DOORS OPEN @ 5:30pm BINGO STARTS @ 7:00pm

Play for as little as \$6 CASH **PRIZES**



Hamburgers sundaes pie, floats & more!

785-524-2466 www.vespercc.org 1247 N 120th Rd Lincoln KS 67455

in operation under Kay Heller for the past thirty-one years. "Kay had a reputation for great food and even better pies. It takes a lot of work to run a restaurant and we greatly ap-

> board member Steve Schneider. The search for a new manager went on for a few months and then a local resident, Tammy Lunda decided to take on the job. Tammy had worked for Kay on and off to keep busy and when no one came forth to take over the new manager job, Tammy didn't want to see the hub of the community close. "I love to cook and see people enjoy it," she said. Tammy retired in Washington as a sign language interpreter and then she and her husband, Lloyd, moved to Hunter to be close to their daughter. She also has years of experience in the restaurant industry, including running one in her hometown. So, with the help of her

husband and several others, they got to work cleaning, painting and doing a few updates with the help of board member Ray Keller. Tammy spent many hours working on a beautiful sunflower mural spanning an entire wall of the café. "We are so thankful for Tammy stepping into this role," said board member Sarah Heller. "I think people will enjoy the atmosphere and the food! It is delicious!'

The Hunter Café Grand Reopening is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 11am-2pm. The regular hours will be Tuesday-Saturday from 11am-2pm and the menu will have daily specials as well as a menu with burgers and sandwiches, baskets, appetizers, salads and desserts. You can find the specials for the week on the new Hunter Café Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/The-HunterCafe.Kansas

In-Person Medicare Basics seminars announced

The North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging (NC-FH AAA) announced today that Medicare Basics, an in-person seminar, is slated for the following dates and locations, weather permitting:

Tammy and Lloyd Lunda, new

owners of The Hunter Cafe. (cour-

After the long-time café manager,

Kay Heller decided it was time to

retire, the Hunter Economic Devel-

opment, LLC Board knew it would

take some time to find a replace-

ment. The Hunter Café had been

- 10:30am 12:30pm, Tuesday, February 25, in Salina
- 10am 12pm, Tuesday, March 4, in Manhattan
- 1pm 3pm, Thursday, March 6, in Emporia

Medicare Basics seminars provide objective and trustworthy information on the "in's and out's" of Medicare. The seminars are especially geared to those close to 65 years of age who are preparing to enroll in Medicare and are intended to provide clarity, information and education from an unbiased and trustworthy source through a trained

SHICK counselor.

Though there are enrollment timelines for Medicare, there are no timelines for taking this class. Being informed and taking a proactive approach with your healthcare is important and this educational seminar will help you do just that.

More Answers for Older Kansans (AOK) seminars are listed at www. ncfhaaa.com/seminars . Visit this website to register for this AOK Seminar or others online at www. ncfhaaa.com/seminars or 1-800-432-2703.

Additional Medicare Basics seminars are offered via ZOOM on the following dates:

Zoom from 5:30 pm- 7pm: February 19/20 or March 5/6 or March 26/27 and April 2/3 and May 7/8 Pre-registration is required for

all Medicare Basics zoom and inperson seminars. The address of

the seminar will be provided at registration. All seminars are free of charge; voluntary donations are always welcomed, but not required. The North Central-Flint Hills Agency on Aging, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that plans, coordinates and provides services in 18 Kansas counties to enhance the quality and dignity of life for older Kansans, people living with disabilities and their families. Area Agency on Aging programs and services are partially funded by the Older Americans Act through the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and voluntary participant contributions. The Area Agency on Aging works in partnership with local and county governments and senior citizens' groups. All services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Lincoln Sentinel-Republican Phone Hours 785-524-4200

Monday Closed for Production Tueday 2 pm to 6 pm Wednesday Noon to 6 pm Thursday Noon to 6 pm Friday Noon to 6 pm Saturday/Sunday Closed

OBITUARIES

David Michael Dunlap May 2, 1977 - Feb. 13, 2025

David Michael Dunlap, age 47, passed away at his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma on February 13, 2025. Born on May 2, 1977 to Joan (Dolloff) and Dennis Dunlap, David grew up and spent his life in the Tulsa area. Following graduation from Jinks High School David joined the work force as a laborer. A man of any talents he worked in a variety of positions including inventory con-

trol, construction worker and most recently as a fork lift operator.

David was an animal lover and had a well-developed sense of humor. Survivors include his mother, brother Allen Dunlap of Broken Arrow, OK, Aunts Kay Mettlen, Lucas, KS, Linda Skutnik. Woodbrook, VA, and Gail Shafer, CA, uncles and several cousins.

Preceded in death by his father, grandparents Earl and Mildred Dunlap of Simi Valley, CA, Roy and Lorraine Dolloff of Osborne, KS, Aunts Ann Johnson and Jan

Dunlap

Condolences can be sent to Joan Dunlap, % Lincoln Park Manor, 922 N 5th Street, Lincoln, KS 67455. Memorials may be given to the Lucas Community Church, Lucas Golden Age Center or a charity of the donor's choice.

Cremation has been chosen. Inurnment will be at the Osborne, KS City cemetery at 2:00 PM on March 22, 2025.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Rentschler Family Mortuary. www.rfmortuaries.com



BARNARD UNITED METHODIST
Pastors Kaye & Jeff Metzler
Adult Sunday School @ 10:00 am
Morning Worship @ 11:00 am

BETHANY CHURCH
Eight miles north, six miles west
and one mile north of Lincoln
Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Worship Service @ 11:00 am
Evening Service @ 7:00 pm

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH LC-MS
Pastor Christopher Craig
Sylvan Grove, Kansas
Sunday School following Worship
Sunday Worship @ 10:00 am

BEVERLY COMMUNITY
CHURCH

www.beverlycommunitychurch.org
Pastor Toby Flaming
Sunday School @ 9:30 am
Morning Worship @ 10:45 am

BEVERLY UNITED METHODIST
Pastors Kaye & Jeff Metzler
Church Service @ 9:00 am

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Pastor, Chris Hall
Sunday School @ 9:30 am
Worship Service @ 10:30 am
Nursery available during service
Light Keepers Wed. @6:30
grades 6-12

CULVER METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Demerle Eckart
401 Main Street, Culver, Ks
Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am
Saturday Coffee @ 8-10 am

DENMARK EVANGELICAL LUTHER-AN COMMUNITY CHURCH, ELCA Worship Service @ 10:30 am

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Jonathan Schale
Lincoln Park Manor @ 9:30 am
Bible Study @10:30 am
Worship Hour @ 11:00 am
Afternoon Worship @ 2:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Carolyn Allen, Barnard
Morning Worship @11:00 pm
GRACE CHAPEL-HUNTER
Pastors Kaye & Jeff Metzler
Worship Service @ 9:00 am
LINCOLN COMMUNITY

CHURCH
www.lincolncommunitychurch.org
Pastor Steven Rohn
Sunday School @ 9:30 am
Worship Service @ 10:30 am
Ladies Prayer Group.Wed. @ 5 pm
To rent the cube call Michael
Pickering 785–488-7049.
Children's Wednesday evening
program to be announced soon

Morning Worship @ 9:30 am
Afternoon Worship @ 2:30 pm

LINCOLN UNITED METHODIST
Pastors Kaye & Jeff Metzler
Worship Service @ 10:30 am

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Sylvan Grove, Kansas Sunday School @ 10:00 am Church @ 11:00 am

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Don Haselhuhn
Lincoln, Kansas
Two and one-half miles south of
Lincoln on Highway 14
Sunday/Bible School...9:30 am
Worship Service.......10:30 am

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Mark Wesely, Lincoln
Rectory phone: 785-524-4823
Email: stpat327@gmail.com
Sunday Mass @ 11:00 am
Sunday CCD Classes @ 9:45 am
Weekday Mass: Mondays - 3:30 pm

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH LCMS
Pastor Don Haselhuhn
Six and one-half miles south and
4 miles east of Lincoln
Worship Service @ 9:00 am

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, ELCA
Pastor Rod Thompson, Tescott
Worship Service @ 9:00 am
TESCOTT UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH
Pastor Demerle Eckart
Sunday School @ 10:00 am
Worship @ 11:00 am

TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, HUNTER
Pastor Matthew Schneider
Hunter, Kansas
Sunday School @ 9:00 am
Worship Service @10:00 am
Midweek/Confirmation
Wednesdays @ 4:30 to 5:45

St. Paul Lutheran



Pastor Don Haselhuhn
Six and one-half miles
south and four miles east of
Lincoln
Service Times:
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.

Ryan Russell Obermueller Aug. 5, 1979 - Feb. 17, 2025

Ryan Russell Obermueller was born to Randy and Greta (Brummer) Obermueller on August 5, 1979, in Lincoln, Kansas. He passed away on February 17, 2025, at the age of 45

Ryan grew up in Lincoln, the first of three children. He loved spending time working on the family farm where his passion for cattle and farming took root. Ryan's interest in cattle led to a reputable cow herd, earning the respect of fellow cattlemen. His Grandpa Harry introduced Ryan and his little brother, Rob, to the world of covote hunting at an early age. Grandpa's rule was, "Be in church Saturday night or no hunting Sunday morning". This passion and cherished hobby were passed on to all four of his children, giving them lifelong memories. After a day of coyote hunting or working cattle, Ryan enjoyed gathering with friends and family to share laughs and stories from the day. He was a dedicated volunteer fireman for the Beverly/Westfall Fire Department and a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Lincoln, Kansas.

Ryan was a proud father to four

children, spending many hours with a helper or two in the cab of his tractor or combine. His qualities of faith, honesty, a hard work ethic, and love for AM radio were instilled in his children by example. Ryan treasured being "Papa Ryan" to his grandsons. He was a beloved brother and a genuine friend to many. He was the friend that listened without judgement and lived life to the fullest. There was never a person Ryan met that he would not have given the shirt off his back. He left footprints on the hearts of so many. He never knew a stranger and was willing to go out of his way to help others. At a Royals game, four innings in, he would know the names and be socializing with everyone in his section. Ryan enjoyed family gatherings, being the first to extend a warm invitation to his home.

Ryan and his brother Rob shared many hours playing neighborhood ball in the back yard, hunting together, and working cattle. They may not have always shared similar opinions, but the brothers always had each other's back. Ryan fiercely loved his sister, Abbie, sharing such a close lifelong bond with her. Randy shared his love of baseball with Ryan and instilled his love of farming and ranching in his son. They shared many years on the farm together working hand in hand. Greta was Ryan's safe place to land. They had a similar drive and work ethic. Ryan always knew just how much his mother loved him - they could always count on each other. Ryan was the happiest man in the field when his mom came with a warm harvest meal.

Ryan, by example, passed down his many qualities and traits to his children. Shelby, his first-born possesses his kind heart and determined work ethic. Sean, Ryan's constant companion, was born yearning to be a farmer. After teaching him everything he knew, Sean has accomplished their dream. Avery, inherited her daddy's bright smile that lights up a room and his passion of softball and love of sports. Kendall, the youngest, the apple of her dad's eye enjoyed time with him doing the things they loved.

Left to cherish his memory is daughter, Shelby Leonard (Bryce) of Rolette, ND; son, Sean Obermueller of Lincoln; daughter, Avery Obermueller of Lincoln; daughter, Kendall Obermueller of Salina, KS; grandchildren, Maverick and Wade, and another one joining the family in July; parents, Randy and Greta Obermueller of Lincoln; brother, Rob Obermueller (Kellie) of Barnard, KS; sister Abbie Weigel (Dale) of Victoria, KS; nieces, Kaylee and Adley; nephews, Riley and Logan; maternal grandfather, Harold Brummer of Lincoln; and paternal grandmother, Dolores Obermueller of Beloit, KS; Lance Wolting, a loyal and dedicated member of the Obermueller family farm. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Virgil Obermueller and maternal grandmother, Paula Brummer.

We plan to gather together with family and friends one last time, to collectively share and tell stories about the life of Ryan. Visitation is Sunday February 23, 2025, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Lincoln Kansas, with family present from 4-7 p.m. followed immediately by rosary service. Funeral mass is Monday February 24, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church Lincoln, KS 67455.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Westfall Fire department c/o, Hall Chapel, PO Box 37, Lincoln, KS 67455. Condolences can be left at hallchapel.com.

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2025

February 10, 2025 The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, February 10, 2025. Chair-Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Leon Hart and Member Kenny Meitler present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Roberta Turner, Carol Torkelson, Kelly Gourley, Brett Wilkinson, Dale Hlad, Felicia Strahm, and Jesse Knight.

Correspondence: bills for Lincoln Park Manor; inquiry about approval for a bay door modification at the emergency services building; a letter from Jim Weber resigning from the Hospital Board of Trustees, effective February 28, 2025; a letter of interest from Teri Hiitter to continue service on the Delia Pittard Inheritance Guide-

line Committee and Children's Health Care Endowment Fund; a letter from the State Historical Society notifying that the county was not selected as a grant recipient for the Heritage Trust Funds; tax abatements; a letter of interest from Michael Cavanaugh expressing interest in various board positions; and WEB Fund Committee's recommendations for 2025 funding.

The board approved a modification to a bay door at the emergency services building if all expenses are paid for by the entity requiring the modification. Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatements 2025000005 through 2025000017 in the amount of \$1,757.84, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Transportation Bus Director Roberta Turner provided an update on department activities.

Carol Torkelson, North

Central Regional Plan-

ning Commission, ex-

plained the CDBG-CVR

grant program. Torkelson provided the bids received for the Lincoln Park Manor grant project for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to approve the quotes as presented for the project at Lincoln Park Manor, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. All equipment purchased as a part of the grant will be owned by Lincoln Park Manor, with overages paid by Lincoln Park Manor.

Torkelson provided information on available funds, applications received, and potential applicants.

Brett Wilkinson, Kirkham Michael, and Dale Hlad, Public Works Director, presented a breakdown of the one bid received compared to the engineer's estimate for bridge replacement project OS 107. Leon Hart moved to approve the bid from L&M Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$758,388.90, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Wilkinson related that he plans to let bids

for bridge replacement project OS 149 in March. Public Works Director Dale Hlad discussed preparations for the snow forecasted for later this week. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing employee performance, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b) (1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, with the board, Public Works Director Dale Hlad, Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm, and County Clerk Dawn Harlow, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 9:45 a.m. Time out: 10:00 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:00 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing employee wages,

See "COMMISSION" page 6

Church schedules are made possible by the following sponsors:



St. John Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church





The Post Rock Cluster of the United Methodist Church
Barnard - Beverly - Hunter - Lincoln

If you would like to sponsor these area churches, please contact the Lincoln Sentinel at 785-524-4200.

Attention Lincoln Readers

In the foyer of the newspaper office at 141 W Lincoln Ave there is a blue drop box into which you can place payments, ads, etc. There are also papers in the foyer available for purchase. If for any reason you don't receive your paper with your mail delivery, please feel free to pick one up at the office.

EDITORIAL/OPINION

LINCOLN SENTINEL-REPUBLICAN

FEBRUARY 26, 2025 - PAGE 4

Guest Editorial

Spare change

Financially, making cents doesn't make sense. A recent presidential directive to stop minting pennies aims to solve the problem that could only befall a government — losing money by

Even with the current pause, the penny will be around for a long time. There are an estimated 240 billion pennies in circulation, or roughly \$7 for every person in the United States.

First minted in 1787, the copper coin has been the lowest denomination of physical currency since we gained our independence. Though originally made entirely of copper, since the 1850s pennies have used tin, zinc and even steel in efforts to overcome the fact the metal in the coin can be worth more than its face value. Projections vary, but only about half of the 1-cent coins are in circulation. The rest pile up in cupholders, purses, couch cushions and dresser tops in addition to being tossed into a

My grandmother had a large Mason jar perched on the washing machine to gather all the coins stuffed in my grandfather's pockets. As a child, I'd look at the jar and the seemingly vast fortune it contained with awe.

receptacle designated for spare change.

When the collection grew large enough or my grandmother ran out of other chores for me, we'd take the jar upstairs and dump its accumulated wealth out onto the kitchen table. Then we would sort the coins into their respective denominations and count them into individual piles — 40 quarters, 50 dimes, 40 nickels and 50 pennies.

The next step was to grab a flattened paper sleeve and do my best to form it into a circle. I would drop coins in the top of the sleeve, using my fingers to straighten the first few in the wrapper. Once the proper amount of coins were deposited, the edges on both sides were folded over to secure the coins inside the sleeve.

In the process of sorting and counting, I'd scan the dates stamped on the coins and take note of any that were particularly old to set aside. I also collected a few Indian Head pennies, plenty of Lincoln Wheat cents, a handful of Buffalo nickels, a couple Mercury dimes and an assortment of silver quarters.

The dream was always to find something that was worth more than face value because of its numismatic quality rather than its metal makeup. None of the pennies, nickels or dimes had enough historical significance and have long since been disposed of. I still have a collection of silver quarters and half dollars, but it's been decades since I've manually counted and rolled spare change.

Once I discovered the bank had a machine to sort and add up coins, I became a quick convert to the convenience. But that was a long time ago. Today my change jar is hidden away in a kitchen cabinet. Whenever I clean out my truck or tidy up my dresser, I deposit what little loose change I have in it.

Over the past decade it's been filled about halfway because I rarely use cash for daily transactions. Just like with rolling coins or writing checks, plastic has replaced paper at the checkout, and it always makes exact change.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

> - Greg Doering Kansas Farm Bureau



Letters to the Editor can be sent to: <u>lincolnksnews@gmail.com</u>

Post Rock Extension District

Fruit Tree Pruning and Care

By Cassie Thiessen K-State Research and Extension Post Rock Horticulture Agent

The long winter and freezing temperatures have most of us ready for spring and the start of the gardening season. If you have the urge to work in your landscape right now, there are a few tasks that can be done before warmer weather arrives. Fruit trees can be pruned now through March as long as the wood isn't frozen. Here are some general recommendations on pruning fruit trees and instructions for each specific tree you might

Start by assessing your tree, then follow these pruning steps. Take out broken, damaged or diseased branches. If two branches form a narrow angle, prune one out. Narrow angles are weak angles and tend to break during wind or ice storms. Take out all suckers, suckers are branches that grow straight up. They may originate from the trunk or from major branches. If two branches cross and rub against one another, one should be taken out. Cut back or remove branches that are so low they interfere with harvest or pruning. If you cut back a branch, always cut back to another branch or a bud, don't leave a stub. Cut back branches to reduce the total size of the tree, if necessary. Thin branches on the interior of the tree. Follow these steps in order but prune no more than 30% of the tree.

If you have a peach or nectarine tree, they require more pruning than any other fruit trees because they bear fruit on growth from the previous year. Not pruning results in fruit being produced further and further from the center of the tree, allowing a heavy fruit crop to break major branches due to the weight of the fruit. Prune long branches back to a shorter side branch.

Apples tend to become overgrown if not pruned regularly. Wind storms and ice storms are then more likely to cause damage. Also, trees that are not pruned often become biennial bearers. In other words, they bear a huge crop one year and none the next. Biennial bearing is caused by too much fruit on the tree. Though pruning helps, fruit often needs to be thinned as well. The goal is to get an apple about every 4 inches. Spacing can vary as long as the average is about every 4 inches.

For cherry, pear, and plum trees a light pruning is usually all that is needed. Simply remove branches that are causing or will cause a problem according to the general recommendations above.

If you have young fruit trees, they should be pruned to begin developing a strong structure of the main or scaffold limbs. This will help prevent limb breakage over the years when the scaffolds carry a heavy fruit load. Apple, apricot, cherry, plum and pear trees generally are trained using the central leader system. The growth pattern for these trees is for a center branch to be dominant and to grow straight up. Peach and nectarine trees are normally pruned using the open center method because they do not have a strong tendency for one shoot or branch to dominate the growth of other shoots or branches. In this system, the tree is pruned to a vase-like pattern with no central leader.

Regardless of the system used, the three to four scaffold branches should be no lower than 18 inches from the ground. This makes it easier to prune and harvest the tree once it matures. Form wide angles (about 60 to 80 degrees) with the trunk. Wide angles are much stronger than narrow angles and are less likely to break under wind or ice loads. They should be distributed on different sides of the tree for good balance. It's best if they are spaced about 6 to 10 inches apart on the trunk with no branch directly opposite or below another.

Get a jump start on spring by taking care of your fruit trees now. Post Rock Extension offers several publications and resources on fruit trees. If you have any questions about caring for trees, please contact your local Extension Office.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Cassie may be contacted at cthiessen@ksu.edu or by calling Beloit (785-738-3597).

Spice Up Your Life - Lindsay Young

Easy potsticker soup will have you shouting for 'choy'



Potsticker soup is a hearty meal, full of delicious Asian flavors, such as bok choy, soy sauce and sesame oil. Combo that with the ease of using frozen potstickers, and you have a fulfilling meal that is quick to prepare.

Just when I think I have explored every part of the produce section, I find something new to try. This time, it was bok choy.

Bok choy, according to the Food Literacy Center website, is considered the oldest green in China, harkening back to the fifth century.

It is sometimes referred to as "Chinese cabbage," and if you're unfamiliar with it, that's probably the best description I could give. Flavor wise, it's kind of like a less intense green

I absolutely loved it, and it added some brightness to the fabulous soup I'm sharing with you this week.

This comes from the awesome food blog "Gimme Some Oven." You can find the original post at https://www. gimmesomeoven.com/potstickersoup-recipe/. I put extra garlic in my version and used regular bok choy instead of baby bok choy, since that's what I could find locally.

Potsticker Soup Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil 8 ounces baby bella or shii-
- take mushrooms, sliced 5 green onions, thinly sliced 2 tablespoons fresh ginger,
- minced 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 cups vegetable broth 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- about 20 ounces frozen potstickers
- 1 bunch bok choy, roughly chopped to spoon-sized
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

Heat the olive oil over medium heat in a large stock pot or Dutch oven. Saute the mushrooms and green onions until they are softened, and then add the ginger and garlic. Saute for another couple of minutes until the garlic is lightly browned and fragrant, and pour in the vegetable broth and soy sauce scraping the bottom of the pot to incorporate any stuck-on bits.

Bring the mixture to a boil.

Add the potstickers and bok choy, and stir to combine. Let everything boil, stirring occasionally, for about four or five minutes until the potstickers are heated through and the bok choy is cooked to your liking.

Turn the heat to low and add sesame oil and pepper. Be sure to taste the broth before adding salt.

To serve, this soup can be garnished with a variety of goodies. We used sesame seeds, soft-boiled eggs and chili crisp in ours.

This was so, so good. We really enjoyed this and decided that this must go into our regular rotation for quick, cold-weather meals. Despite using frozen potstickers, this felt completely homemade, with lots of delicious Asian flavors. It was a really hearty soup, too, with plenty of veggies to fill us up.

I made soft-boiled eggs to go in our bowls, and that added a creamy component that we really enjoyed.

Plus, I can mark a new vegetable off my list. I'm guessing those fifth century farmers never imagined the new veggie in their gardens would be enjoyed over 1,000 years later and 7,000 miles away, but whoever they were, I'm a big fan of their work.

Spice Up Your Life is a weekly recipe column by Lindsey Young, who describes herself as an enthusiastic amateur cook and can be reached through her website at spiceupkitchen.net.

PRAIRIE DOC BY DEBRA JOHNSTON, MD

There are more than ample reasons to be concerned about your vision

Recently, I had a gentleman come for an annual wellness visit. He hadn't had one for quite some time, and I could tell he was a little uncertain about what to expect. He was patient while we reviewed his family history, and tolerant while we talked about diet and exercise, but he'd had enough when I asked about the last time he'd been to the dentist and the eye doctor. "What is this about?" he asked me, somewhat exasperated. I suppose people don't usually expect to go to their primary care doctor and have her nag them about their teeth or their eyes!

But both teeth and eyes are really important to your overall well being. There is ample evidence linking poor dental health to other issues, like heart disease and preterm births. The

eyes provide clues to many systemic diseases, such as autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, cancers, various infections, genetic conditions like Marfan's syndrome, and of course more mundane issues like high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Naturally, I harp on people with diabetes to get to the eye doctor almost every time I see them! Diabetes can damage small blood vessels, and in the eye this damage may lead

Even if you don't notice any problems with your vision, it's important to see your eye doctor periodically. Diseases like glaucoma can be silent, and the visual loss so gradual that you don't notice it until it is advanced. Glaucoma can be successfully treated, but only if it is detected! Macular degeneration is also silent in the early stages, but can be detected by a careful eye exam by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Most of us understand instinctively that we would face additional challenges if we had poor vision. There would be no hopping in the car to drive to the store. There would be no picking up a magazine to leaf through in the waiting room. There would be no recognizing an old friend from across the street. We might not consider that these circumstances contribute to increased social isolation and depression, or increased risk of injuries. Some research links vision loss, like hearing loss, with dementia, although the nature of that relationship isn't clear. Nevertheless, there are more than ample reasons to be

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Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services launches new programs to support Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregivers

TOPEKA - The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) recognizes the significant emotional, physical, and financial toll that caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia can take on families. To provide much-needed support, KDADS is launching two new initiatives: the Kansas Respite for Alzheimer's and Dementia Program (K-RAD) and the Kansas Dementia Roadmap: A Guide for People Impacted by Dementia.

In Kansas, more than 55,000 individuals are living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia, and more than 89,000 individuals are providing unpaid care. Families serve as the primary source of support for older adults and people with disabilities across the nation. According to the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers report developed by the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Act Family Caregiving Advisory Council and the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, gaps in the availability of and access to respite care can add to the stress and burden faced by unpaid caregivers. Respite care often comes with high costs and limited availability, leaving caregivers responsible for most expenses.

Kansas has allocated funding for a state-funded respite program to address these challenges. The K-RAD program offers relief to unpaid caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's or related dementia by providing temporary care services that replace the direct care given by the caregiver for short or intermittent periods.

"We are excited about the K-RAD program and the ability it provides our agency to help our caregivers with respite care for their loved ones," Leslea Rockers, Executive Director for East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging, said.

Caregivers can apply for K-RAD funds to cover respite care costs. More information is available on the KDADS website, and applications can be obtained through local Area

Agencies on Aging or by contacting the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1-855-200-2372

Additionally, KDADS has introduced the Kansas Dementia Roadmap: A Guide for People Impacted by Dementia. This resource acknowledges that caring for someone with memory loss or dementia is a long and unpredictable journey. The Roadmap provides essential guidance, support, and information for families, helping them navigate the challenges of dementia care.

"This roadmap will help families navigate their dementia journey so that they won't become lost in the diagnosis," Jamie Gideon, Kansas Director of Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Association, said.

Printed copies of the Kansas Dementia Roadmap are available at local Area Agency on Aging and Alzheimer's Association offices. A downloadable version is also available at https://www.kdads.ks.gov/ services-programs/aging/alzheimer-s-disease-and-dementia/kansasdementia-roadmap.

Planning for planting: Federal crop insurance sign-up deadline approaching

By Kelsey Willardson Policy associate, Center for Rural

A farmer's work is never done. Even in winter, farmers are planning for the next planting season. For many operations, planning ahead includes signing up for federal crop insurance.

The deadline to sign up for most types of coverage is March 15, 2025. As weather events become more unpredictable and severe and market fluctuations continue, federally-backed crop insurance is an essential risk management tool for many farmers.

A wide range of coverage is available for agriculture operations. Newer programs, such as Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and its subprogram Micro Farm, serve small- to medium-sized, diversified, and organic operations for an agent, farmers can visit rma. particularly well. These programs are available throughout the U.S. regardless of county and fit all of an operation's production under a single policy. The policies provide coverage based on an operation's revenue history and protect against losses from natural causes, such as flooding, hail, and drought, as well as losses from market changes.

Other types of coverage, including multi-peril yield and revenue protection, also support operations in times of loss. It is important for a farmer to speak with an agent to learn what type of policy best suits their needs and operation.

Federal crop insurance is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency and sold by private agents throughout the country. To look usda.gov/tools-reports/agent-locator. This resource now includes specific help for farmers interested in WFRP and Micro Farm.

The Center for Rural Affairs has developed several resources for farmers who are new to or have questions related to crop insurance. These can be found at cfra.org/ crop-insurance-resources. One-onone support is also available, and producers are encouraged to contact Kelsey Willardson at kelseyw@ cfra.org if interested.

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, nonprofit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

Crop Insurance Deadline Nears for Spring Planted Crops, Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, and Micro Farm Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds agricultural producers that the final date to apply for or make changes to their existing crop insurance coverage is quickly approaching for spring planted crops, Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm. Sales closing dates vary by crop and location, but the next major sales closing dates are Feb. 28, March 15 and April 15.

The USDA's Risk Management Agency lists sales closing dates in the Actuarial Information Browser, under the "Dates" tab.

Producers can also access the RMA Map Viewer tool to visualize the insurance program date choices for acreage reporting, cancellation, contract change, earliest planting, end of insurance, end of late planting period, final planting, premium billing, production reporting, sales closing, and termination dates, when applicable, per commodity, insurance plan, type and practice. Additionally, producers can access the RMA Information Reporting System tool to specifically identify applicable dates for their operation, using the "Insurance Offer Reports" application.

Federal crop insurance is critical to the farm safety net. It helps producers and owners manage revenue risks and strengthens the rural economy. Producers may select from several coverage options, including yield coverage, revenue protection and area risk plans of insurance.

Crop insurance options include Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm. Whole-Farm Revenue Protection provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy and is available in all counties nationwide. Micro Farm,

introduced in 2021, aims to help direct market and small-scale producers that may sell locally, and this policy simplifies record keeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products. Producers can find additional information on the Actuarial Infor-

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2025 crop year. Crop insurance coverage decisions must be made on or before the sales closing date.

mation Browser.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available online at the RMA Agent Locator. Producers can learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov or by contacting their RMA Regional Office.

CONSUMER CONNECTION

Break the ice with steps to combat winter weather

Topeka, Kan. – As Kansas faces yet another round of winter weather, it is a good time to remind yourself of some simple steps to help prevent damage to your home from the ice and snow. Homeowners and renters' insurance policies could protect against common winter damage, so be sure to contact your agent to review your policy and ensure you are covered for potential winter related damages to your home or property.

"It is important to take precautionary steps and winterize your property to protect against freezing temperatures," said Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. "If you are a victim of winter weather damage, contact your insurance agent right away."

The Kansas Department of Insur-

ance recommends taking the following precautions to help prevent winter weather damages:

• Protect your pipes from freezing by detaching garden hoses and winterizing your irrigation systems. When temperatures drop drastically, have your faucet slightly drip and leave your under-sink cabinet doors open, especially with pipes near outer walls.

• Have your furnace inspected annually. Make sure to change out your HVAC filters as directed on its package.

• Seal potential leaks by insulating your home or apartment to keep winter chill outside. Check seal on attic, plumbing vents, and recessed lights.

If you or someone you know is having trouble with an insurance claim, please contact the Kansas Department of Insurance's Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071 or email KDOI.complaints@ks.gov.

The Kansas Department of Insurance was established in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to regulate companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, educate consumers about all things insurance and securities, and advocate for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.

Groundwater levels fall across western, south-central Kansas

By KU News

LAWRENCE — Preliminary groundwater level measurements compiled by the Kansas Geological Survey show an overall decline of almost a foot across the High Plains aquifer region in western Kansas in 2024. All areas in western and south-central Kansas experienced declines in water levels.

"For the most part, we've been on the dry side the last five years, and this year especially so in northwest Kansas. Water levels reflect that," said Brownie Wilson, KGS water-data manager. "Having said that, we did get some great rains across the state in November. In contrast to the Ogallala aquifer, in some areas like south-central Kansas where sandy soils are common and the aquifer is close to the land surface, the aquifer can respond to precipitation events. Talking with groundwater management district managers in southcentral Kansas, November rains helped raise the water levels several feet in a matter of months."

Most parts of the state saw well below average precipitation in March and April of 2024 as the growing season got underway. Pockets of moisture fell in May and June (notably in portions of southwest Kansas), and drier than average conditions returned in the summer and early fall before the substantial rains of November.

The KGS, based at the University of Kansas, and the Division of Water Resources (DWR) of the Kansas Department of Agriculture measure water levels in about 1,400 wells every year to monitor the health of the High Plains aquifer and other aquifers in western and south-central Kansas.

Those measurements showed an overall decline of 0.91 feet across the region, marking the fifth straight year of overall declines. Groundwater levels across the region fell 0.17 feet in 2023, 1.9 feet in 2022, about a foot in 2021 and 0.85 feet in 2020. Annual change in groundwater levels across the region averaged -0.42 feet from 1996 to 2024.

The High Plains aquifer is a network of water-bearing rock that extends into eight states. In Kansas, the aquifer comprises three components — the Ogallala aquifer, the Great Bend Prairie aquifer and the Equus Beds. Of these, the Ogallala underlies most of western Kansas and consists mainly of the Ogallala Formation, a geologic unit that formed from sediment eroded off the uplifting Rocky Mountains.

Most of the wells in the network monitored by the KGS and DWR are within the boundaries of the state's five groundwater management districts, which are organized and governed by area landowners and local water users to address water-resources issues.

"On a regional scale, most areas of the aquifer were down more than their long-term averages. The exception to that was in southwest Kansas," Wilson said.

Although southwest Kansas GMD 3 experienced the greatest average drop in water levels in 2024, at 1.36 feet, it was the only district to see declines less than its long-term average. The average annual decline in the district's water level from 1996 to 2024 was 1.67 feet. It

GMD 3 includes all or part of Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Meade, Morton, Seward, Stanton and Stevens counties. Most of the wells monitored in the district are drilled into the Ogallala aquifer, except in a few areas where they can also draw from the deeper Dakota aquifer.

Northwest Kansas GMD 4 experienced a decline of 1.16 feet in 2024, after an increase of 0.35 feet in 2023, a year in which the district saw well-above-average precipitation. GMD 4 water levels declined by 1.32 feet in 2022. Average annual declines in the district from 1996 to 2024 were 0.47 feet.

GMD 4 covers Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and parts of Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Logan, Rawlins and Wallace counties. Groundwater there is pumped from the Ogallala aquifer and shallow alluvial sources associated with streams.

Western Kansas GMD 1, where the majority of wells are drilled into the Ogallala aquifer, saw a decline of 0.62 feet in 2024, after an increase of 0.27 feet in 2023 and a decline of 1.13 feet in 2022. From 1996 to 2024, water levels fell an average 0.53 feet per year.

GMD 1 includes portions of Greeley, Lane, Scott, Wallace and Wichita counties. Water levels in the district, one of the first areas of the state to have large-capacity wells drilled in the 1940s-1950s, have fallen to a point that yields for irrigation have greatly diminished.

Water levels in south-central Kansas saw a fifth straight year of larger than normal decline rates amid continuing drought conditions. This area typically sees more precipitation than the western part of the state, but total rainfall throughout the region fell short of average in 2024.

Equus Beds GMD 2, a significant source of water for Wichita, Hutchinson and surrounding towns, saw a decline of 0.41 feet in 2024. Levels in the district fell 1.62 feet in 2023 and 2.11 feet in 2022. GMD 2 covers portions of Harvey, McPherson, Reno and Sedgwick counties.

Water levels in Big Bend GMD 5, centered on the Great Bend Prairie aquifer, fell 0.51 feet in 2024 after declines of 1.12 feet in 2023 and 2.32 feet in 2022. GMD 5 includes Pratt and Stafford counties and parts of Barton, Edwards, Kiowa, Pawnee, Reno and Rice counties.

Since 1996, when the state began administrating the water-level monitoring program, water levels in southcentral Kansas, including GMDs 2 and 5, have remained relatively stable. The aquifer there is relatively close to the land surface and sandy soils are abundant, allowing precipitation during average or above average years to make its way into the aquifer. Average annual water level declines from 1996 to 2024 were 0.03 feet in GMD 2 and 0.19 feet in GMD 5.

The KGS visited 576 well sites in western Kansas, and DWR staff from field offices

See "Water" page 6

DOC/from page 4_

concerned about your vision!

In addition to those regular trips to the eye doctor, there are some steps you can take to protect your eyes. Keep your chronic medical conditions, like diabetes and high blood pressure, under control. Don't smoke or vape. Wear sun glasses with UVB protection. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Don't drink much alcohol. And of course, protect your eyes from injury: over a million Americans live with significant vision loss in at least one eye because of eye trauma.

My answer to my patient's very reasonable question was simple: anything that impacts your well being deserves consideration from your doctor. And that most definitely includes your eyes!

Debra Johnston, MD. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a Family Medicine Doctor at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www. prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.

Water/from page 5___

in Stockton, Garden City and Stafford measured 218, 262, and 343 wells, respectively, in western and southcentral Kansas. Most of the wells, spread over 49 counties, are used for irrigation and have been measured for decades with landowners' permission.

Measurements are taken primarily in January, when water levels are least likely to fluctuate due to seasonal irrigation. The measurement results, available on the KGS Water Well Levels web page, are provisional and subject to revision based on additional analysis.

The KGS is a nonregulatory research and service division of KU. KGS researchers study and provide information about the state's geologic resources and hazards, including groundwater, oil and natural gas, critical materials and earthquakes.

For more information, contact Brownie Wilson, bwilson1@ku.edu.

Got a great news story? Send your information to

lincolnksnews@gmail.com

Farmers & Ranchers Livestock Commission Co.

Total for the Week - Cattle - 228 **Bulls -** \$179.00 - \$190.50 **Cows -** \$155.00 - \$164.00 DIDN'T HAVE A THURSDAY SALE THIS WEEK

Early Consignments Thursday, February 27th 10 a.m start time

90 angus hfrs, 650-800, long wean, off wheat; 25 angus strs, 600-800, long wean, off wheat; 150 blk strs, 800-900, off rye; 300 mostly blk strs, 400-600, home raise, long wean, 2 round vaccs, off cover, green; 161 s&h, 550-750, home raise, wean 60+days, vaccs, open; 25 blk strs, 850-875, home raise, long wean, vacc, off rye; 150 blk hfrs, 825-850, home raise, long wean, vacc, off rye; 60 blk/red s&h, 600-800, home raise, long wean, 2 round vacc, open; 80 mostly blk s&h, 500-650, home raise, wean Nov.28, 2 round vacc, open, off rye; 250 blk/bwf s&h, 550-650, wean Nov.1, vacc; 53 blk s&h, 550-850, long wean, vacc, open, hot wire broke; 65 hfrs, 750-800, no sort; 30 s&h, 600, home raise, wean 60+days, 2 round fall & spring vacc, open; 60 blk strs, 900-925, no sort; 30 blk/red angus s&h, 500-550, wean Nov.; 23 blk/bwf s&h, 600-800, wean Dec. fall vacc, open; 62 strs, 850, no sort; 12 s&h, 750-850, long wean; 50 blk s&h, 650-850, wean Oct. 2 round vacc, open; 39 blk/ red s&h, 600-800, wean 60 days, fall vaccs, open; 30 blk

strs, 650-800, long wean, fall vacc; plus more by sale time. **Don Johnson Angus, 29th Annual Performance Bull Sale** Monday, March 3, 2025

6:30pm start time Offering 60 long yearling bulls & 10 eighteen- month old bulls.

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Saturday, May 17, 2025.

Special Cow Sales Tuesday March 18, 2025 Tuesday April 15, 2025 Tuesday May 6, 2025

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KDA Announces Specialty Crop Grant Opportunity

MANHATTAN, Kansas — The Kansas Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the FY25 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Funds for the program are awarded to the agency by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

The grant funds are in turn granted to projects and organizations to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture."

Applications will be evaluated by a team of external reviewers. The team will rate proposals on their ability to successfully enhance the competitiveness of the specialty crop industry in Kansas and make a positive impact on the Kansas economy. Those recommendations will be submitted to the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, who will make the final awards.

Applications are due to KDA no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2025. For more information, please download and carefully read the Kansas Request for Applications document from the KDA website: agriculture.ks.gov/grants.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding from USDA-AMS is awarded to states based on recent value and acreage of specialty crops in the state. In 2025, Kansas will receive approximately \$330,000.

The vision of the Kansas Department of Agriculture is to provide an ideal environment for long-term, sustainable agricultural prosperity and statewide economic growth. The agency will achieve this by advocating for sectors at all levels and providing industry outreach.

Ranchland Trust of Kansas and Pioneer Bluffs To Host Prairie Talk

On Saturday, March 8th at 1:00pm, Pioneer Bluffs will host an exclusive Prairie Talk focusing on the Grassland Conservation Series from Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK).

In the spring of last year, RTK worked with Emil Redmon's Cow to produce a specific series of interviews focused on grassland conservation and stewardship. This prairie talk will provide a unique opportunity to interact with the four ranching families that participated in the project.

Included in the interviews were Bill Sproul, Sproul Ranch of Sedan; Matt & Tom Perrier, Dalebanks Angus of Eureka; Heather Fuesz & Irlene Huntington, Double Arrow C and Huntington Ranches of Eureka; and Glenn Walker, Walker Ranch of Brookville.

"I've interviewed over 80 farmers and ranchers now, a majority from the Flint Hills. A recurring theme has been concerns about conservation and the responsibility of stewardship. I was thrilled for the opportunity to team up with RTK and explore the subject on a deeper level," said Mark Feiden, producer of Emil Redmon's Cow.

Attendees are encouraged to participate in the panel discussion on March 8th. Please watch the interviews in advance and be prepared to ask questions. http://www.redmonscow.org/grassland.htm

This promises to be an enlightening conversation on a subject of increasing importance as threats to our prairie ecosystems increase.

Samantha Weishaar, RTK Associate Director said, "Mark has done an excellent job on this project. Archiving these stories is so important to each family and they will get to share it with future generations. We encourage you to attend and see this truly inspirational series come to life."

This event is free and open to the public. Homemade cookies and refreshments will be served. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required, and can be made to 620-753-3484 or info@pioneerbluffs.org. Donations will support future program events. Visitors are invited to come early to tour the grounds, walk the nature trail, and see updated displays in the historic 1908 ranch house at Pioneer Bluffs.

Pioneer Bluffs, the Center for Flint Hills Ranching Heritage, is a nonprofit organization with a mission to preserve and share the ranching heritage of the Flint Hills. A National Register Historic District, Pioneer Bluffs is located 14 miles south of Cottonwood Falls or 1 mile north of Matfield Green on Flint Hills National Scenic Byway K-177.

Commission/from page 3

pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b) provided a letter of support for the (1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Public Works Director Dale Hlad, HR Felicia Strahm, and County Clerk Dawn Harlow present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:14 a.m. Time out: 10:29 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:29 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing employee wages, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Public Works Director Dale Hlad, HR Felicia Strahm, and County Clerk Dawn Harlow present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:30 a.m. Time out: 10:40 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:40 a.m. with no action taken.

Emergency Manager Jesse Knight

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Program with recommendations for appointments as Lincoln County's representatives. Knight provided an update on department activities and discussed potential shelter considerations. Debora Smith moved to approve the letter of support and appointments of Riggston Walter & Jarrod Heinze for the Community Wildfire Protection (CWPP) Program, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2025, meeting, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve the three WEB fund recommendations for funding: Lincoln County Tourism Coalition in cooperation with the county historical societies - \$7,000; LEPC - \$450; and Lincoln Senior Center - \$14,800, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. The group discussed the countyowned property on Lincoln's main street. Smith related that Kelly Gourley agreed to help with the project and had recommended that the board appoint a committee of individuals who could help get the project moving forward, suggesting that the focus be on fixing the North wall and planting grass. Smith related that the WEB fund is interested in providing financial support for the project if an application is received.

Clerk Harlow discussed the position currently available in the Clerk's Office and requested approval to offer an applicant the position for 32 hours per week. The position has been advertised as a part-time and full-time position blended with work from another department. The board authorized Harlow to offer the applicant the position at the hours requested. Clerk Harlow requested that the board approve employing and setting the wage for the work-study student. Debora Smith moved to employ Allyson Johnson-Hall at a Grade 12 Step 0, \$12.50 per hour, effective January 29, 2025, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m. The next

meeting will be in the courthouse

commission meeting room at 8:30

a.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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Legal Notice

(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, February 26, 2025)

RESULTS OF THE MARKET STUDY ANALYSIS FOR LINCOLN **COUNTY FOR ASSESSMENT YEAR 2025**

A study of the residential real estate market indicates there is an overall countywide inflationary trend 0f.07 percent, though specific areas may be above or below the overall trend.

A study of the commercial real estate market indicates that the mar-

ket is stable with a slight upward trend. A study of the vacant real estate market indicates that the market

is stable with no general upward or downward trend. Land Value increased at Lake Wilson and Prairie View Estates based upon re-

Values of specific properties may not follow the general trend since there may have been changes made to the property or there may have been adjustments to value based on sales of similar properties

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2-19	1	-3	.10 in 2 1/2"
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2-20	9	-16	
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2-23	50	27	
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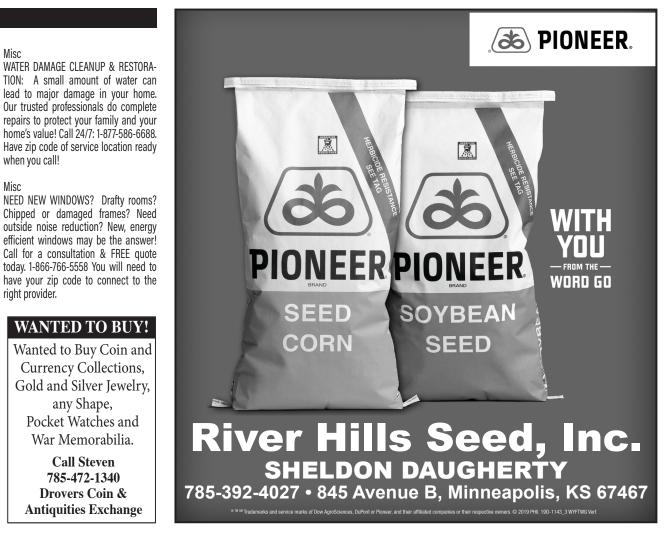
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Legal Notice

(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, February 26, 2025)

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-2-12

AN ORDINANCE, granting to Kansas Gas Service, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc., and its successors and assigns, a natural gas franchise, prescribing the terms thereof and relating thereto, providing definitions of terms, prescribing a franchise fee, providing terms and conditions for the use of public rights-of-way, requiring advance notice of work and duty to repair, providing for indemnification and a hold harmless agreement, providing for rules and regulations, prescribing insurance requirements, reserving certain rights, providing for revocation and termination, providing for an acceptance of the terms of the franchise, providing for a reopener, providing for notice of annexations, prescribing relevant governing law, providing for transfer and assignment of the franchise, providing for points of contact and notifications, providing for an agreement to renegotiate, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with the terms hereof.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Franchise Ordinance the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent within the context, words used in the present tense include the future tense and words in the single number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory, and not merely directory.

"City" shall mean the City of Beverly, Kansas, and, where appropriate by the context, each of its departments, divisions and component units, including public trusts or authorities of which the City is a beneficiary.

"Company" shall mean Kansas Gas Service, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc.
"Consumer" shall mean any Entity located within the municipal corporate limits of the City and serviced by the Company through any use of the Public Ways.

"Distribution" or "Distributed" shall mean all sales, distribution, or transportation of natural gas to any Sales Consumer or Transportation Consumer for use within the City by the Company or by others through the Distribution Facilities of Company in a Public Way.

"Distribution System" or "Distribution Facilities" shall mean a pipeline or system of pipelines, including without limitation, mains, pipes, boxes, reducing and regulating stations, laterals, conduits and services extensions, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto, or any part thereof located within any Public Way, for the purpose of Distribution or supplying natural gas for light, heat, power and all other purposes.

"Effective Date" shall mean the date the Company files its written acceptance with the City following the final passage and approval of this Franchise Ordinance by the City, as set forth in Section 10 of this Franchise Ordinance.

"Entity" shall mean any individual person, governmental entity, business, corporation, partnership, firm, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership, unincorporated association, joint venture trust, and any forms of business enterprise not specifically listed herein.

"Facility" or "Facilities" refers to the Company's Distribution System or Distribution Facilities.

"Franchise" shall mean the grant of authority, set forth in Section 2 of this Franchise Ordinance, by the City to the Company for the Distribution of natural gas to the inhabitants of the City and to operate a Distribution System or Distribution Facilities.

"Franchise Fee" shall refer to the charges as prescribed in Section 3 of this Franchise Ordinance

"Franchise Ordinance" shall mean this Ordinance granting a natural gas

"Gross Receipts" shall mean any and all compensation and other consideration derived directly by the Company from any Distribution of natural gas to Consumers within the City. Such term shall not include revenue from certain miscellaneous charges and accounts including but not limited to: connection fees, disconnection and reconnection fees, temporary service charges, delayed or late payment charges, collection fees, bad debts, customer project contributions, meter test fees, revenues received by Company from Consumers as Franchise Fee reimbursement, and returned check charges. Additionally, Gross Receipts shall not include credit extended pursuant to the Cold Weather Rule (or substitute rule) of the Kansas Corporation Commission for natural gas sold within the corporate limits of the City, nor Volumetric Rate Fees collected by Company and remitted to City in accordance with Section 3 of this Franchise Ordinance.

"MCF" shall mean a measurement of natural gas equal to one thousand cubic feet. It is assumed for purposes of this Franchise Ordinance that one MCF equals one million British Thermal Units.

"Public Improvements" means any public facilities, buildings, or capital improvements, including, without limitation, streets, alleys, sidewalks, sewer, water, drainage, right-of-way improvements, and other Public Projects.

"Public Project" means any project planned or undertaken and financed by the City or any governmental entity for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or repair of public facilities or improvements, or any other purpose of a public nature paid for with public funds.

"Public Way" or "Public Ways" shall mean the area on, below or above the present and future public streets, avenues, alleys, bridges, boulevards, roads, highways, parks, parking places and other public areas, and general utility easements, dedicated to or acquired by the City. The term does not include easements obtained by private entities providing utilities services or private easements in platted subdivisions or tracts.

"Sales Consumer" shall mean, without limitation, any Entity that purchases natural gas within the corporate City limits from Company for delivery to such Consumer within the City through the Company's Distribution System or Distribution Facilities.

SECTION 2. GRANT OF FRANCHISE.

A. In consideration of the benefits to be derived by the City and its inhabitants, there is hereby granted to the Company (said Company operating a Distribution System in the State of Kansas), a non-exclusive Franchise for a period of twenty (20) years from the Effective Date, to construct, maintain, extend and operate its Distribution Facilities along, across, upon or under any Public Way for the purpose of selling and distributing natural gas for all purposes to the City, and its inhabitants, and through said City and beyond the limits thereof; to obtain said natural gas, and/or comparable blends of combustible gasses, from any source available; and to do all things necessary or proper to carry on said business.

B. The grant of this Franchise by the City shall not convey title, equitable or legal, in a Public Way and shall give only the right to occupy the Public Way for the purposes and for the period stated in this Franchise Ordinance. This Franchise Ordinance does not:

(1) Grant the right to use facilities or any other property, natural gas-related or otherwise, owned or controlled by the City or a third party without the consent of such party;

(2) Grant the authority to construct, maintain or operate any Facility or related appurtenance on property owned by the City outside of a Public Way;

(3) Excuse the Company from obtaining appropriate access or attachment agreements before locating its Facilities on property owned or controlled by the City (other than a Public Way) or a third party; or (4) Unless explicitly setforth herein, excuse the Company from obtaining and being responsible for any necessary permit, license, certification, grant, registration or any other authorization required by any appropriate governmental entity, including, but not limited to, the

City or the Kansas Corporation Commission. SECTION 3. FRANCHISE FEE.

A. As further consideration for the granting of this Franchise, and in lieu of city occupation, license or permit fees, or revenue taxes, except as expressly provided herein, the Company shall pay to the City during the term of this Franchise, a Franchise Fee of: (i) four percent (4%) of the actual Gross Cash Receipts collected by the Company from the Distribution of natural gas to all Sales Consumers within the corporate limits of the City, all such payments to be made monthly for the preceding monthly period.

B. The Company's obligation for payments of the Franchise Fee shall commence with the first cycle of the monthly billing cycle following the Effective Date of this Franchise Ordinance. Prior to that date, payments shall continue to be calculated and be paid in the manner previously provided in Ordinance No. 2005-7-5, and amendments thereto.

C. In the event a Consumer of Company does not pay a monthly bill from Company in full, Company shall prorate its payments of remissions to the City for sums due on that particular bill so that the amount actually paid by the Consumer to Company on the bill is distributed to Company for the natural gas commodity and transportation or distribution service and to the City for sums due on the bill in proportion to the percentage of the total bill actually paid by the Consumer. In the event Company actually collects any outstanding amounts due on a past due, unpaid, or partially paid monthly bill to a customer, the Company shall pay City its proportionate share of sums due to the City on such bill

D. Upon written request by the City (but no more than once per quarter), the Company shall submit to the City a certified statement showing the manner in which the Franchise Fee was calculated. The City shall have the right to examine within the corporate limits of the City and during regular business hours, upon reasonable advance written notice to the Company, all books, papers and records kept by the Company in the ordinary course of business and pertaining to its business carried on by it in or through the City, necessary to verify the correctness of the Franchise Fee paid by Company.

E. No acceptance by the City of any Franchise Fee shall be construed as an accord that the amount paid is in fact the correct amount, nor shall acceptance of any Franchise Fee payment be construed as a release of any claim of the City. Any dispute concerning the amount due under this Section shall be resolved in the manner set forth in K.S.A. 12-2001, and amendments thereto.

F. The Franchise Fee required herein shall be in lieu of all taxes, charges, assessments, licenses, fees, and impositions otherwise applicable that are or may be imposed by the City under K.S.A. 12-2001, K.S.A. 17-1902, and amendments thereto. From and after the date hereof, the permit fees required of the Company by any ordinance (presently in effect or hereafter adopted) for a permit to excavate in, or adjacent to, any Public Way shall be deemed a part of the compensation paid pursuant to this Franchise Ordinance and shall not be separately assessed or collected by the City; in no event, however, shall this provision be interpreted to waive the requirement of notice to the City and the procedural requirements of such ordinance. The Franchise Fee is compensation for use of the Public Way.

SECTION 4. USE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.

- Except as provided herein or as regulated by state or federal law, the use of any Public Way under this Franchise by the Company shall be subject to all laws, statutes, regulations and/or city policies (including, but not limited to those relating to the construction and use of the Public Way or other public property) now or hereafter adopted or promulgated. Unless specifically provided, herein, the Company shall be subject to all rules, regulations and policies now or hereafter adopted or promulgated by the City relating to permits, sidewalk and pavement cuts, utility location, construction coordination, and other requirements on the use of a Public Way; provided however, that nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver of or be construed as waiving the right of the Company to oppose, challenge, or seek judicial review of, in such manner as is now or may hereafter be provided by law, any such rules, regulation, or policy proposed, adopted, or promulgated by the City and, further provided other than the items enumerated in this Section 4 herein, that such rules, regulations or policies shall not require the payment of additional fees or additional costs for the use of a Public Way.
- All mains, services, and pipe which shall be laid or installed under this Franchise shall be so located and laid as not to obstruct or interfere with any water pipes, drains, sewers, or other structures already installed. The Company shall provide, prior to commencing work, information to the City concerning work to be performed in the streets, avenues, bridges, parking areas, and public places of the City, as the City may from time to time require for purposes of record keeping. The City may require that the information be provided on its standard permit form, but without requiring approval, consent, or fees. In the event of an emergency, the Company shall have the right to commence work without having first provided such information or form(s).
- The Company's use of any Public Way shall always be subject and subordinate to the City's use of the Public Way for any public purpose. The City may exercise its home rule powers in its administration and regulation related to the management of the Public Way; provided that any such exercise must be competitively neutral and may not be unreasonable or discriminatory, nor in conflict with state or federal law.

D. The City reserves the right to lay or permit to be laid cables, electric conduits, water, sewer, gas, or other pipelines and to do or permit to be done any underground work deemed necessary and proper by the City, along, across, over, or under any Public Way. In permitting such work to be done, the City shall not be liable to the Company for any damage to the Company's Facilities unless the City or its agents or contractors are negligent in causing said damage.

E. Whenever by reason of establishing a grade or changing the grade of any street, or the location or manner of construction of any Public Way, the City deems it necessary to alter, change, adapt, or conform any portion of the Company's Facilities located in the Public Way, the City shall provide reasonable notice and such alterations or changes shall be made within a reasonable time by the Company, as ordered in writing by the City, without claim for reimbursement or compensation for damages against the City; provided, however, that this provision is not intended to require the Company to alter, change, adapt, or conform any portion of its Facilities without reimbursement or compensation where the right to locate the same (whether by private right-of-way grant, utility easement or otherwise), was acquired prior to the designation of the location as a Public

F. If the City shall require the Company to adapt or conform its Facilities or in any way to alter, relocate or change its property to enable any other person, firm, corporation, or Entity (whether public or private), other than the City, to use the Public Way, the Company shall be reimbursed by the person, firm, corporation, or Entity desiring or occasioning such change for any and all loss, cost, or expense occasioned thereby. "Person," "Firm," "Corporation," and "Entity" as used in this paragraph shall not include regular departments of the City, or any trust or authority formed by or for the benefit of the City for public utility purposes, but shall include any other agency or authority of the City, whether acting in a governmental or non-governmental capacity, including, but not limited to, any urban renewal authority, or any other agency or authority, which as a part of its program clears whole tracts of land within the municipal corporate limits and relocates citizens for the purpose of urban development or similar aims.

G. The Company and the City shall participate in the Kansas One-Call utility location program. The Company shall cooperate promptly and fully with the City and take all reasonable measures necessary to provide accurate and complete information regarding the location of its Facilities located within a Public Way when requested by the City. Such location and identification shall be promptly communicated in writing to the City without cost to the City, its employees, agents or authorized contractors. The Company shall designate and maintain an agent familiar with the Facilities, who is responsible for providing timely information needed by the City for the design and replacement of Facilities in a Public Way during and for the design of Public Improvements.

H. The Company shall be subject to the following fees and costs in connection with its use and occupancy of any Public Way: (i) in the event that the repairs or replacements set forth under Section 5 below, have not been timely completed by Company, the City may charge an excavation fee for each street or pavement cut to recover the costs associated with construction and repair activity; (ii) inspection fees to recover all reasonable costs associated with City inspection of the work of the Company in the Public Way when the Facilities are of such a scope and magnitude so as to require the City to incur such inspection costs by an out-side party; and (iii) the repair and restoration costs associated with repairing and restoring the Public Way because of damage caused by the Company, its assigns, contractors, and/or subcontractors in the Public Way.

SECTION 5. NOTICE OF WORK AND DUTY TO REPAIR.

A. Prior to commencing any activities related to the construction, maintenance, or extension of its Facilities along, across, upon, or under the Public Way, the Company shall submit to the City written plans detailing all such activities in the manner required by the City by Ordinance. In the event of an emergency, Company shall have the right to commence work without providing such plans, provided such plans are submitted within five business days of commencement of the work. The Company's Facilities shall be so constructed and maintained as not to obstruct or hinder the usual travel or public safety on such Public Ways or unreasonably obstruct the legal use by other utilities.

B. Prior to beginning work, the Company will inspect existing pavement within and/or adjacent to the work area and will report any existing damage or concerns. All earth, materials, sidewalks, paving, crossings, utilities, Public Improvements, or improvements of any kind located within the Public Way that are damaged, displaced, or removed by the Company shall be fully repaired or replaced to their prior condition or to existing municipal standards as are then in existence, and in a manner satisfactory to the duly authorized representative of the City, after completing such activity as is permitted under this Franchise Ordinance and without cost to the City.

SECTION 6. INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS.

The Company, its successors and assigns, in the construction, maintenance, and operation of its Facilities, shall use all reasonable and proper precaution to avoid damage or injury to persons and property, and shall indemnify, defend, hold, and save the City harmless from any and all claims, damage, judgements, and reasonable expense, including attorney fees, caused by the negligence of the Company, its successors and assigns, or their agents or servants. The Company or the City shall promptly advise the other in writing of any known claim or demand against the Company or the City related to or arising out of the Company's activities in any Public Way.

SECTION 7. RULES AND REGULATIONS. The Company shall have the right to make and an

The Company shall have the right to make and enforce such reasonable rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the extension of its Facilities, the sale of its gas, and the prudent conduct of its business, provided that such rules and regulations shall neither be in conflict with the laws of the State of Kansas, with the orders, rules, or regulations of the Kansas Corporation Commission or other regulatory authority having jurisdiction, nor with the ordinances and regulations of the City insofar as they are consistent with the jurisdiction of the Kansas Corporation Commission or such other regulatory authority.

poration Commission or such other regulatory authority. **SECTION 8. REVOCATION AND TERMINATION.**

In case of failure on the part of the Company to comply with any of the provisions of this Franchise Ordinance, or if the Company should do or cause to be done any act or thing prohibited by or in violation of the terms of this Franchise Ordinance, the Company may be subject to forfeiture of all rights, privileges and Franchise granted herein, and all such rights, privileges and franchise hereunder be deemed ceased, terminated, null, and void, and this Franchise Ordinance shall be deemed revoked or terminated, provided that said revocation or termination shall not take

effect until the City has completed the following procedures: Before the City proceeds to revoke and terminate this Ordinance, it shall first serve a written notice upon Company, setting forth in detail the neglect or failure complained of, and the Company shall have sixty (60) days thereafter in which to comply with the conditions and requirements of this Franchise Ordinance. If at the end of such sixty (60) day period the City determines that the neglect or failure complained of has not been cured, the City shall take action to revoke and terminate this Franchise Ordinance by an affirmative vote of the governing body present at a public meeting and voting, setting out the grounds upon which this Franchise Ordinance is to be revoked and terminated; provided, to afford the Company due process, the Company shall first be provided reasonable notice of the date, time, and location of the governing body's consideration and shall have the right to address the governing body regarding such matter; and further provided, if the nature of the default is such that it cannot be reasonably cured within the above said sixty (60) -day period, and the governing body believes the Company has in good faith timely commenced its cure and is diligently pursuing the completion of the same, the Company may, in the City's sole discretion, be given a reasonable additional period of time to complete its cure. Nothing herein shall prevent either party from invoking any other remedy that may otherwise exist at law. Upon any determination by the governing body to revoke and terminate this Franchise Ordinance, the Company shall have thirty (30) days to appeal such decision to the District Court where the City is located or in the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas. This Ordinance shall be deemed revoked and terminated at the end of this thirty (30) -day period, unless the Company has instituted such an appeal. If the Company does timely institute such an appeal, such revocation and termination shall remain pending and subject to the court's final judgment. Provided, however, that the failure of the Company to comply with any of the provisions of this Franchise Ordinance or the doing or causing to be done by the Company of anything prohibited by or in violation of the terms of this Franchise Ordinance shall not be a ground for the revocation or termination thereof when such act or omission on the part of the Company is due to any cause or delay beyond the control of the Company or to bona fide legal proceedings.

SECTION 9. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.

A. In granting its consent hereunder, the City does not in any manner waive its regulatory or other rights and powers under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Kansas as the same may be amended, applicable Federal laws or regulations as the same may be amended, its home rule powers under the Constitution of the State of Kansas, nor any of its rights and powers under or by virtue of present or future ordinances of the City.

B. In adopting and passing this Ordinance, neither the City's nor the Company's present or future legal rights, positions, claims, assertions or arguments before any administrative agency or court of law are in any way prejudiced or waived. By the City's adopting and passing this Franchise Ordinance and the Company's acceptance hereof as provided in Section 10, neither the City nor the Company waive any rights, but instead expressly reserve any and all rights, remedies, and arguments the City or the Company may have at law or equity, without limitation, to argue, assert, and/or take any position as to the legality or appropriateness of any present or future laws, non-franchise ordinances and/or rulings.

SECTION 10. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS.

A. This Franchise Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval by the City, acceptance by the Company, and publication in the official City newspaper. The Company shall have sixty (60) days after the final passage and approval of this Franchise Ordinance to file with the City Clerk its written acceptance of the provisions, terms, and conditions of this Franchise Ordinance and when so accepted, this Franchise Ordinance and acceptance shall constitute a contract between the City and the Company and such contract shall be deemed effective on the date Company files its acceptance with the City.

B. This Franchise Ordinance, when accepted as provided above, (i) shall constitute the entire agreement between the City and the Company relating to this Franchise, and the same shall supersede and cancel any prior understandings, agreements, or representations regarding the subject matter hereof, or involved in negotiations pertaining thereto, whether oral or written, (ii) shall be binding upon the parties, including their successors and assigns, and (iii) shall not be amended or further obligations imposed without mutual consent of the parties hereto.

SECTION 11. REOPENER PROVISION.

A. Upon written request of either the City or the Company, this Franchise may be reviewed once after five (5) years from the effective date of this Franchise Ordinance, and once every (5) five years thereafter, to review the Franchise Fee set forth in Section 3 above. Said request must be served upon the other party at least 120 days prior to the end of each period set forth above, and shall state specifically the amendment(s) to the Franchise Fee desired. The City and the Company shall negotiate in good faith in an effort to agree upon a mutually satisfactory amendment of the Franchise.

B. Upon written request of the Company, the Franchise shall be reopened and renegotiated at any time upon a change in federal, state, or local law, regulation, or order which materially affects any rights or obligations of the Company, including, but not limited to, the scope of the grant to the Company or the compensation to be paid to the City.

C. The Franchise Fee percentage rate set forth in Section 3 shall in no event exceed the percentage rate hereafter approved to calculate any fee paid to the City by any Entity for use of the Public Ways, if such fee is based in any way on the amount of revenues or gross receipts from the sale, transportation and/or distribution of natural gas or electric energy (excluding any municipally-owned electric utility) by such other Entity to customers within the City. If at any time after the Effective Date of this Franchise Ordinance, the fee or rate required to be paid by another Entity selling, transporting, and/or distributing natural gas or electric energy (excluding any municipally-owned electric utility) is less than the Franchise Fee percentage rate set forth in Section 3, then this Franchise shall become automatically subject to reopen upon notice by the Company for purposes of negotiation of a new lower Franchise Fee percentage rate.

SECTION 12. NOTICE OF ANNEXATION.

The City shall promptly notify the Company in writing (to include a map) of areas newly annexed into or deannexed from the corporate limits of the City, and the Company shall update its records for the purpose of payment of Franchise Fees as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving such notice. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Franchise Ordinance, the Franchise Fees provided for in Section 3 shall not become effective within any area annexed by the City until the beginning of the monthly billing cycle which begins no more than sixty (60) days after the date that the City provides the Company with a certified copy of the annexation ordinance, proof of publication as required by law and a map of the City detailing the annexed area. **SECTION 13. RELEVANT LAW.**

This Franchise Ordinance is granted pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 12-2001 and amendments thereto. Any and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the terms hereof are hereby repealed or considered as having no effect as of the first cycle of the monthly billing cycle as referenced in Section 3 of this Franchise Ordinance.

SECTION 14. TRANSFER AND ASSIGNMENT.

Company shall not have the right to assign, sell, lease, or otherwise transfer in any manner whatsoever to any third party not affiliated with Company the rights and privileges granted under this Franchise Ordinance except as hereinafter provided. Any assignment, sale, lease, or other transfer by the Company of the Franchise granted herein to any third party not affiliated with Company shall be ineffective and void unless:

The proposed assignment, sale, lease or transfer shall be in writing:

 (2) The prospective assignee, buyer, lessee or other transferee shall agree in writing to accept and become responsible for full performance of all conditions, covenants, obligations, and liabilities con

tained in this Franchise Ordinance; and (3) Such writing shall be submitted to the City Clerk of the City. SECTION 15. POINT OF CONTACT AND NOTICES.

The Company shall at all times maintain with the City a local point of contact who shall be available at all times to act on behalf of Company in the event of an emergency. Company shall provide the City with said local contact's name, address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address. Emergency notice by either party to the other may be made by telephone to the City's designee as listed below. All other notices between the parties shall be in writing and shall be made by personal delivery, depositing such notice in the U.S. Mail, Certified Mail (return receipt requested), or via the email addresses provided below. Any notice served by U.S. Mail or Certified Mail (return receipt requested) shall be deemed delivered upon actual receipt unless

otherwise provided. SECTION 16. AGREEMENT TO RENEGOTIATE.

Should the Kansas Corporation Commission take any action with respect to this Franchise Ordinance and any amendment thereto which precludes Company from recovering from its customers any costs or fees provided for hereunder, the parties hereto shall renegotiate this Franchise Ordinance in accordance with or to conform to the Commission's ruling.

PASSED, <u>ADOPTED</u> AND APPROVED this 2nd day of December, 2024. <u>CITY OF BEVERLY, KANSAS</u>

[seal]

Harold Flaherty, Mayor

ATTEST:
Rhonda Bell, City Clerk

CELEBRATING SENIORS

Leopards Dominate Senior Night with a Clean Sweep in Lincoln! Lincoln Girls Edge Solomon 35-30; Boys Seal Victory 55-40



COOPER RATHBUN Parents: Scott and Becky Rathbun



LEVI BATES Parents: Dan and Traci Bates



TYRA MEYER Parents: Toby and Heather Meyer



BELLA NAYLOR Parents: Craig and AJ Naylor



ETHAN LARSON - MANAGER Parents: Tyler and Misti Larson (Photos by Becky Rathbun and Sara Timson)



ALLISON JOHNSON-HALL Parents: Erick Hall and Shawna Johnson

Sylvan-Lucas Mustangs show appreciation on Parents Night



(Photos courtesy of USD 299 facebook page)



Honoring Tescott Senior Players with Pride and Support



JAMES DICKERMAN



AUSTIN MILLER

(Photos by Kriston Phelps and Becky Rathbun)



AVA ADAMS

LINCOLN - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

by Cindy Entriken

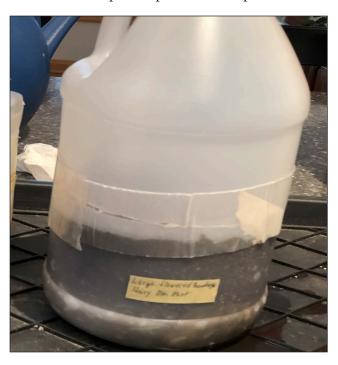
In last week's paper I wrote about a new -- at least new to me -- method of sowing seeds in winter. This week I'll report on and show you my efforts, and tell you the mistakes I made.

According to the experts, milk jugs are the best containers to use for winter sowing. I had two one gallon milk jugs and a one gallon vinegar container. I washed and dried them thoroughly then used a pair of sharp scissors to cut each container completely in half.



 $\label{eq:definition} \mbox{Drill and containers with holes drilled in the bottoms.}$

That was my first mistake. I should NOT have cut them completely in half because then I had no hinge to open them for watering before closing them again. I had to tape them all the way around. To water the seeds inside, I bought a turkey baster which I will insert into the hole in the top to drop in water. I hope that works.



Large container with soil, seeds, taped, ready to go outside.

My second mistake was buying 32 ounce containers that were too small. The seedlings need four inches of soil to develop good root systems, and by the time I filled a container with soil, there was too little space available for the seedlings to grow. I used another container as a top. See my photo labeled "Two containers done and ready to go outside." Again the two containers are taped together so I'll have to use the baster to water inside.



Two containers done and ready to go outside.

Another problem with the plastic containers I used was that some of them cracked as I drilled holes into the bottoms of them. I realized that to drill a hole without cracking the container I needed to refrain from pushing the drill into the plastic. Instead I placed the drill where I wanted the hole, held it firmly in place and then used a higher speed to make the hole. At the start, the drill bit scratched the surface of the plastic which then allowed it to grab hold and make a clean hole. I used the containers even if there were small cracks because I needed all of them.

Third mistake -- using Flex Tape. That stuff was a nightmare to cut and then I taped my fingers together several times. I'd show you pictures of that but . . . my fingers were taped together and I couldn't use the camera. After a heroic battle with Flex tape, I switched to packing tape.



Flex Tape and coffee filters.

It was challenging to tape the two halves of the milk containers together because the plastic is very flexible. If I had not cut each container completely in half, I'm sure it would have been easier to tape closed.

One thing I did right -- I hope -- was use seedling mix potting soil. It's finer and should allow the tiny seeds to



Seedling mix and potting soil.

unfold more easily as they germinate.

I also think I got the ratio of water to soil right. I tested it by taking a container, putting in a coffee filter, and then adding the soil which I tamped down. Water drained easily out of the holes in the bottom. I'd describe the water/soil mixture as the consistency of pancake batter.

The reason sand is mixed with tiny seeds is so you can see where you have scattered the seed. I did use sand but it was unnecessary with the large seeds



Water, container for mixing soil with water, and sand.

I sowed 18 different varieties of seeds. It was time-consuming, taking me about four hours from start to finish. If this process yields seedlings that I can transplant in the spring, after the last frost, then next time, I probably won't try to sow such a large number of seeds. In truth, while I was tired by the time I'd finished, I also felt a sense of accomplishment and optimism that maybe, this time, I'd found an effective way to get a head start on my spring planting. We'll see!



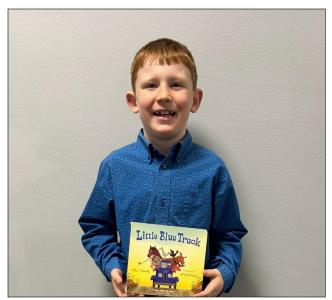
Winter sowing - seeds and containers in my garden.

Hunter Huntsmen 4-H By Jaxson Meitler Reporter

The Post Rock District 4H Days was held this past Saturday, February 8th at Beloit. Sam Heller and Jaxson Meitler, both from the Hunter Huntsman 4H Club, did an Intermediate group demonstration "Chiefs Snack" and received a Purple Ribbon. Aiden Sulsar from the Hunter Huntsman 4H Club did a Junior Reading "Little Blue Truck" and received a purple ribbon. Jayden Meitler from the Hunter Huntsman 4H Club worked as a door monitor and all four members participated in the District Judging Extravaganza contest. The Hunter Huntsman 4H Club also recorded and entered a model meeting. It was a successful day for the Hunter Huntsman group!



Jaxson Meitler and Sam Heller give their group demonstration.



Aiden Sulsar



Jaxson Meitler and Sam Heller judging photography.



Jayden Meitler judging photography



Jayden Meitler, door monitor

We Meed Your Support!