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The Official Newspaper for Lincoln County Kansas

LINCOLN SENTINEL-REPUBLICAN

Volume 138 No. 13

www.lincolnsentinel.com

Wednesday, March 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

Heather Hillegeist Honored as City Clerk of the Year



Recognized for her dedication, professionalism, and outstanding service, Lincoln City Clerk Heather Hillegeist was named City Clerk of the Year, earning top honors from among her peers across the state. The prestigious award reflects her commitment to the community and excellence in municipal leadership. More info to follow. (Courtesy photo)

Spring Means One Thing: Prom Season Has Arrived

By Jyll Phillips, Lincoln-Sentinel

Spring break is over, the weather is beginning to warm up and Spring Fever is nearly pandemic. We have now turned the corner into Prom Season, an expensive but essential rite of passage for teenagers.

Prom has been The Event of a high schoolers career since the late 19th century, but have you ever wondered how it came about, why it came about and why it is called "PROM?"

According to History.com, Prom is short for "promenade" and are modeled after debutante balls of high society. What used to be a semi-formal end-of-the-year dance held in school gyms has morphed into a billion-dollar industry that includes limos, flowers, photography, gowns that cost hundreds of dollars, tuxedos and crazy, recorded invitations. It's an

expensive endeavor.

Exploring the name a little further, while a promenade is thought of as a place for a walk, or a leisurely walk itself, it can also refer to movements in ballet and ballroom dancing. It makes more sense now, doesn't it?

Proms became popular in the early 1930's, and in 1936 "The Junior-Senior Prom" was the first guidebook for students attending the dance. The late 1940s and 1950s became known as the "golden age of prom" according to Ann Anderson's book, "High School Prom: Marketing, Morals and the American Teen." This is when some proms began moving from school gyms to hotels and banquet halls. This is also when the crowning of prom royalty became common.

So how much does this shindig cost, anyway? That would depend on where you

live. It would also depend on whether There is not much call for a limousine in a small town so that's one expensive that can be avoided. Typically, the cost is shared between several couples sharing the limo.

Prom dresses can range from being lucky enough to find a beautiful, only slightly used dress at a bargain price, to however much they care to spend. Some dresses are pricey while others can be found on sale or barely used. If she has a date, a girl is typically responsible for their date's boutonniere. If she doesn't, she - or her parents - get to save a little, or make their own.

The fella can rent a tuxedo, a new experience for most 16-17-year-old male first-time prom goers, or they can wear a nice suit. Some want the whole top hat-tails-cane effect which of course adds to the cost of the tux,

and a gentleman certainly wouldn't want to wear those accessories with a suit. If he has a date, he is responsible for her corsage.

Added to the overall cost are tickets to the dance, after party and dinner.

The dollars add up but still do not compare to the memories that are made during that one event - memories that last a lifetime.

Through the years the high school prom has endured an industrial revolution, untold wars, inflation, depression, the civil unrest of the 1960s, the rampant drug use of the 1970s and every trend and societal threat since.

Prom provides one day in the year that any high school student from any socio-economic background can feel special and celebrated, look handsome and beautiful and enjoy the moment.

You can't put a price on that.

Grins, Gags, and Good Vibes: April Is All About Humor

By Jyll Phillips, Lincoln-Sentinel

Everyone knows they are subject to unexpected pranks on April 1 of each year, but did you realize April Fool's Day kicks off a month-long celebration of all things funny?

While this fact would bring out squeals of joy in some people, others would groan equally as loudly. Keep in mind we are addressing humor and not malicious pranks.

April was named National Humor Month in April of 1976 by Larry Wilde, an author and humorist, to bring public awareness to the healing power of laughter.

"The idea of laughing and the use of humor as a tool to lift ailing spirits is growing," Wilde once said. "Scientific research now indicates that the curative power of laughter and its ability to relieve debilitating stress and burnout may indeed be one of the great medical discoveries of our times." He believed that laughter reduces stress and pain levels, thereby strengthening the immune system and revitalizing the body.

It isn't hard to celebrate National Humor Month. Humor is everywhere. We communicate through humor, and we utilize it as a tool to connect with others. We also use it as a tool to understand daily life. Who doesn't like to laugh? Humor embraces positive emotions like happiness and joy.

National Humor Month aligns with Stress Awareness Month, emphasizing the importance of reducing stress through humor.

Overall, National Humor Month encourages us to incorporate more laughter into our daily lives, recognizing its ability to improve our mental health, strengthen relationships and promote happiness.

Take a moment each day to act silly or share a funny story with a friend. Use the hashtag #NationalHumorMonth when you share jokes online. Happy giggling!



LAUGHTER IS CONTAGIOUS! April kicks off with April Fool's Day and launches into National Humor Month—a time to embrace joy, reduce stress, and share a few good laughs along the way. (Stock Photo)



Spring Sports Season Swings into Action

As the days get longer and the weather begins to warm, Lincoln, Sylvan-Lucas and Tescott athletes are trading textbooks for team huddles as spring sports officially kick off this week.

The Sylvan-Lucas softball team opened their season at home on Tuesday, March 25, hosting the Pratt-Skyline Thunderbirds. Fans gathered to cheer on the team in their first contest of the season, setting the tone for what promises to be an exciting few months on the diamond.

On the baseball side, the Sylvan-Lucas-Lincoln baseball team is gearing up for their season opener on Friday, March 28, as they take on St. Mary's Academy. With fresh talent and returning players, the team is eager to step up to the plate and make a strong debut.

While area high school track and field teams won't officially open their season until April 8 in Beloit, junior high athletes are already gearing up for competition. Their first meet is set for April 3, and preparations are well underway. With students fine-tuning their skills in sprints, distance events, jumps, and throws, anticipation is high for a season packed with personal bests, team spirit, and strong finishes.

Whether it's on the field, at the plate, or on the track, Sylvan-Lucas student-athletes are ready to make this spring a season to remember.

Sylvan-Lucas FFA Takes Action for a Cleaner Community



Sylvan-Lucas FFA students recently rolled up their sleeves and took to the highway to help keep their community clean and litter free. (Courtesy Photo)

March 28 is National Something on a Stick Day!

Cash Grain



Celebrate the simple joy of food... on a stick! Whether it's corn dogs at the county fair, caramel apples at the pumpkin patch, cake pops from the bakery, or good ol' kabobs on the grill—everything tastes better when it's served on a stick. It's the perfect day to skewer something tasty and have a little fun with your food!

Corn.....	\$4.09
Milo.....	\$3.59
Soybeans.....	\$9.08
Wheat.....	\$5.37

Cash prices courtesy of Ag Mark

Community Calendar

Thursday, March 27

Lincoln: 6 pm TNGR Post Rock Mountain Bike Club Group Ride @ Mettner Field
 USD 298: NPL Powerlifting @ Lincoln;
 Student's dismissed at Noon/PM Inservice
 USD 299: FFA Aggie Days (Horse, Milk Quality, & Agronomy) @ Cloud County;
 Speech & Drama @ Natoma; 1 pm NPL Power Lifting @ Lincoln

Friday, March 28

Hunter: 5 pm Trinity Lutheran Church Fish Fry @ Hunter Community Building
 Lincoln: NPL Art Show Award Ceremony @ Lincoln County Historical Museum; 5 pm St. Patrick's Shrimp Boil @ St. Patrick's Parish Hall
 USD 298: 10:30am - NPL Art Show Awards; 4pm - Baseball vs St. Mary's Academy @ Lucas; 6 pm PTCO LES CARNIVAL
 USD 299: 10am NPL Art Awards @ Lincoln; 4pm BSB vs. St. Mary's Academy @ Lucas

Saturday, March 29

USD 298: KSHSAA Solos & Sm. Ensemble Regional Festival; 10 am LINCOLN REC SOCCER

Sunday, March 30

Monday, March 31

USD 298: 1:30pm - School dismissed; 2pm - NPL Forensics @ Lincoln; Fort Hays Robotics Competition @ Ft. Hays; 6pm - BOE Mtg (5th wk)
 USD 299: 2pm NPL Speech & Drama @ Lincoln

Tuesday, April 1

USD 298: 4 pm - Baseball vs Republic Co. @ Lucas
 USD 299: 1pm High School Choir Workshop with Dr. Krull; 4pm BSB vs. Republic Co. @ Lucas; 4pm SFB vs. Republic Co. @ Sylvan

Wednesday, April 2

USD 299: FCA meeting during seminar; FFA Rewards Trip; NPL Meeting @ Beloit

Have a Great Week!

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

Lincoln County Historical Society meets third Wednesday of each month @ 5 p.m.; Lincoln County Historical Museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Call 202.744.9041.
 LCEDF 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.



Monday, March 31

Sausage Gravy w/Biscuit, Scrambled Eggs, Cubed Potatoes, Tomato Wedges, Mandarin Oranges, Milk & Muffin

Tuesday, April 1

Chicken Nuggets, Potatoe Wedges, Fresh Veggies w/Dip. Fruit & Rolls

Wednesday, April 2

Open Face Roast Turkey Sandwich w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Pears & Milk

Thursday, April 3

Pork Cutlet w/Gravy, Baby Bakers, Mixed Veggies, Apple Crisp, Roll & Milk

Friday, April 4

Potato Soup w/Cheese, Crackers, Lettuce, Apricots, Roll & 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, April 5th
 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

Concessions are sold by volunteers to fundraise solely for community purposes

DENMARK DAMES SERVICE CLUB - JANET HUMBERG, SECRETARY

The Dames met at the residence of Shirley Nelson-Hough on March 4, 2025. Members present were Shirley Nelson-Hough, Connie Crawford, Georgie DeArvil, Janet Humberg, and guest Ardene Smith.

For the opening, Shirley read "St. Patrick's Wish" to the ladies. Shirley spoke about how she and another lady decorated the common room for St. Patrick's Day.

Roll Call was about St. Patrick's Day. Connie said it was a public holiday in Ireland after a parade was done in the USA in 1903. Geor-

gie met a couple from Ireland. She said it was very difficult to understand them when they spoke to her. The Irish do not celebrate the way we do. Shirley had worked at Good Will with a man from the Congo. He was confused about our St. Patrick's Day celebration. Georgie read an Irish poem. Janet recalled the week-long Irish festivals in her home town in Wisconsin.

The minutes were read and approved with corrections. The treasurer reported our current balance. Correspondence included a request

from the Crispin Antiquarian Foundation for a donation for a 2025 membership. We also received a thank you from the Lincoln and the Sylvan-Lucas Prom Committees.

New Business: We should be thinking of where we should go on our road trip. We discussed possibly Lindsborg or the museum in Salina.

Our next meeting is at Connie Crawford's home on April 8, 2025.

There was no Old Business or Program. The ladies were served a delicious slice of cherry pie and ice cream while chatting about this and that.

CONSUMER CONNECTION

Be prepared for storm season

Topeka, Kan. – As Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week concludes, it is important for Kansans to be prepared for this storm season. Planning ahead and reviewing your insurance can help you be ready to weather the storm.

"Storm season in Kansas is unpredictable" said Commissioner Schmidt. "Taking steps now to be prepared will help you navigate whatever storm hits."

Consider taking the following precautions:

- Review your current coverage. Check with your agent or your insurance company. It is always a good practice to do a yearly review, especially if you have made changes to your property.
- Take inventory of your possessions. Create a list and take pictures of possessions in each room of your property. A personal home inventory list can be downloaded from the Department's publications page, or your insurance may have a similar document available.

• Prepare paperwork in case of emergency. Store copies of all your insurance policies in a fire-proof safe. Keep a backup in a secure online format.

Take these steps if your property is damaged due to storms:

- Report the claim to your provider. Prepare to file a claim with your insurer. Gather all relevant information and policy numbers.
- Document damaged property. Take videos and pictures of damaged property and do not get rid of items until instructed to do so by your insurance company.
- Avoid fraud. After storms, fraudsters may be posing as insurance adjusters, contractors, or other service providers. It is important to always contact your insurance and verify credentials. Remember that insurance adjusters work for and are paid by the insurance company, so you should not be asked to pay for their services. To report a potential scam, contact the Department at insurance.kansas.gov/complaint or call 785-296-3071.

The Kansas Department of Insurance provides several insurance shopping guides found online at insurance.ks.gov/department/publications.php. This storm season, if you or someone you know is having trouble with an insurance claim, please contact the Department's Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071, by email at kdoi.complaints@ks.gov or online at insurance.kansas.gov for any claims-related questions or concerns.

 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.

Kansas Tourism Wins International Gold for Annual Travel Guide

TOPEKA – Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland announced that Kansas Tourism earned a Gold Award for its 2024 Kansas Official Travel Guide, which provides information on the multitude of attractions, events, dining, lodging, outdoor adventures and travel resources found throughout the state. The award was given during the 33rd Annual North America Travel Journalist Association (NATJA) Awards Competition.

"This award celebrates not only the exceptional work our team has put into the guide, but also highlights Kansas as the vibrant and flourishing place it truly is," Lie-

utenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "As Kansans, we know that this state is special. This recognition from NATJA firmly positions our state on the international stage as a premiere travel destination."

Judges for the competition included award-winning newspaper and magazine editors as well as educators from across journalism disciplines.

"Our independent panel of judges remarked on the difficulty they had selecting winners," NATJA CEO Helen Hernandez said. "We are proud of the winners of this year's competition."

"We are incredibly honored to bring home gold for our 2024 travel

guide," Kansas Tourism Director Bridgette Jobe said. "Our team pours their hearts into creating a publication that inspires travelers to explore the Sunflower State, from our wide-open prairies to our lively cities. We're proud to showcase the best of Kansas and are grateful for this prestigious recognition."

The NATJA awards are designed to exemplify the best of the best in travel journalism, photography and destination marketing from organizations in the United States, Canada, Mexico and elsewhere. A complete list of awardees can be found at <https://www.natja.org/news/33rd-annual-award-winners-for-excellence-in-travel-journalism>.

USDA Expediting \$10 Billion in Direct Economic Assistance to Agricultural Producers

WASHINGTON— U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, on National Agriculture Day, announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing up to \$10 billion directly to agricultural producers through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) for the 2024 crop year. Administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), ECAP will help agricultural producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices.

"Producers are facing higher costs and market uncertainty, and the Trump Administration is ensuring they get the support they need without delay," said Secretary Rollins. "With clear direction from Congress, USDA has prioritized streamlining the process and accelerating these payments ahead of schedule, ensuring farmers have the resources necessary to manage rising expenses and secure financing for next season."

Authorized by the American Relief Act, 2025, these economic relief payments are based on planted and prevented planted crop acres for eligible commodities for the 2024 crop year.

To streamline and simplify the delivery of ECAP, FSA will begin sending pre-filled applications to producers who submitted acreage reports to FSA for 2024 eligible ECAP commodities soon after the signup period opens on March 19, 2025. Producers do not have to wait for their pre filled ECAP application to apply. They can visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap to apply using a login.gov account or contact their local FSA office to request an application once the signup period opens.

Producer Eligibility
 Eligible producers must report 2024 crop year planted and prevented planted acres to FSA on an FSA-578, Report of Acreage form. Producers who have not previously reported 2024 crop year acreage or filed a notice of loss for prevented planted crops must submit an acreage report by the Aug. 15, 2025, deadline. Eligible producers can visit fsa.usda.gov/

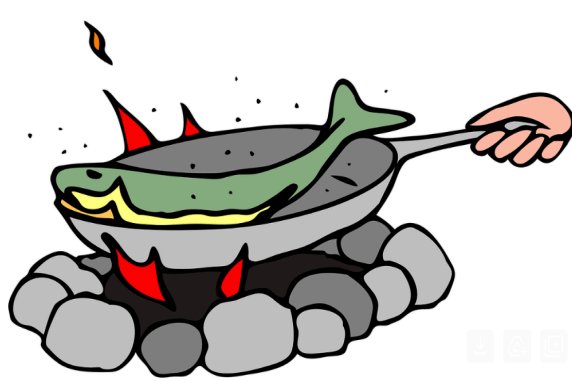
- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet.
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable).
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC 943, 75 percent of Average Gross Income from Farming, Ranching, or Forestry Certification (if applicable).
- AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification.
- SF-3881, Direct Deposit.

See "ECAP" page 5

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FISH FRY

At Hunter Community Center

Friday, March 28, 2025
 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm



Lincoln Sentinel-Republican

Phone Hours 785-524-4200

Monday
Closed for Production

Tuesday
2 pm to 6 pm

Wednesday
Noon to 6 pm

Thursday
Noon to 6 pm

Friday
Noon to 6 pm

Saturday/Sunday
Closed

OBITUARY

Kenneth James "Ken" Miller II Aug. 2, 1948 - March 12, 2025

Kenneth James "Ken" Miller II, 76, passed away Wednesday, March 12, 2025, with his family by his side at his home in Elk Grove, CA. He was born August 2, 1948 to the late Ken & Betty (Allard) Miller in Lakewood, CA. Ken and his younger sister, Cheryl, spent part of their early childhood in Iowa before the family moved back to Lakewood where he graduated from Lakewood High in 1966. He then went on to attend Long Beach State University where he was a member of their highly successful rowing team. He graduated with a degree in Biology which he went on to use during his illustrious 43-year firefighting career with both the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and San Diego County. During his early adult years, Ken had an adventurous streak. He was an avid rock climber and obtained his pilot's license. He was also in the Army National Guard for 6 years. Ken met the love of his life, Rosemarie, while living in Big Bear City, CA. They were joined in union on September 9, 1978. The pair were inseparable from that moment throughout their 46-year marriage. Ken was the ultimate family man. When his children were growing

up, despite his sometimes grueling work schedule, he never missed an opportunity to take them camping, or fishing, or on a road trip. He was a devoted father and husband. In his retired years he loved nothing more than spending time with his beloved wife, children, grandchildren, & great grandchildren. Ken's faith in God was unwavering. He and Rosemarie were always heavily involved with their church no matter where they lived at the time. Ken was passionate about volunteering and giving back to his community. He served on countless boards and was a member of numerous organizations including the Knights of Columbus, the Elk Grove Historical Society, and the Native Sons. Ken also loved watching sports. His favorite teams included the San Diego Padres, the Los Angeles Chargers, and the University of Kansas Jayhawks. During his tenure with CDF, Ken worked up & down the state of California from San Bernadino to Riverside to Fresno to Ione to Sacramento and finally San Diego where he retired as Unit Chief in 2003. However, Ken's strong work ethic wouldn't let him stop there. He became a Fire Marshall for San Diego County for a few years. His next endeavor involved creating a fire department from scratch for the county with the assistance of his esteemed colleague, Ralph. Finally

in 2015, Ken retired for good and he and Rosemarie moved back to Sacramento to be near family. Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Rosemarie, of the home; his three children, Dina Wilcox, Sacramento, CA, Travis Miller (Sarah), Carson City, NV and Justin Miller (Trish), Lincoln, KS; his grandchildren, Jordan Wilcox (Annika), Kiana Wilcox (Michael), all of Sacramento, CA, Natalya Miller, Reno, NV, Jackson & Daisy Miller, Carson City, NV, and Liam Miller, Lincoln, KS; his great grandchildren, Azariah & Hezekiah Jones, and Freya Wilcox all of Sacramento, CA; sister Cheryl Estacio (Martin) and nephews Marty & Eric Estacio all of Oak Hills, CA. He was preceded in death by his mother & father, Ken & Betty Miller, and also father-in-law & mother-in-law, Chuck & Irene Roos. Though he is gone from sight, his kind and generous spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. A memorial service took place at 10 a.m. Friday, March 21, 2025 at El Camino Memorial, 5600 Carroll Canyon Rd, San Diego, CA with burial to immediately follow. Visitation was from 4 - 8 p.m. Thursday, March 20, 2025 also at El Camino Memorial with family present. An additional celebration of life will take place this summer in Sacramento.



- 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 LUTHERAN 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
- LINCOLN PARK MANOR CHAPEL**
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

KDOT warns of smishing scam



The Kansas Department of Transportation is alerting the public to a scam involving fraudulent text messages, known as smishing, that falsely claim to be from KDOT and demand payment for unpaid tolls. Do not click on the link. It is not a KDOT website. Clicking the link in the text can expose victims to financial fraud, allowing scammers access to bank accounts and personal data. KDOT does not collect tolls for road usage and does not send unsolicited text messages. The Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA), a separate state agency responsible for turnpike toll collection, also has been targeted in similar scams. Those who receive a fraudulent message can file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. This site is dedicated to sharing information on internet crimes across law enforcement agencies.

**HIRING?
SELLING?
BUYING?
RENTING?**

Contact us TODAY to get your listing in the CLASSIFIEDS!

lincolnknews@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus Shrimp Boil

Friday, March 28
5 - 7 pm

St. Patrick's Parish
206 N 5th St, Lincoln

Adults \$16 • Children Under 12 \$8

Raffling TWO halves of a hog & basic processing at Glasco Locker.
Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Winners drawn
Friday, March 28 at 7 pm
Everyone Welcome!

Big ads get noticed - small ads do too!

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.

Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau (opinion) Still shopping

Greg Doering
Kansas Farm Bureau

A little over five years ago the world as we know it changed forever when COVID-19 swept across the globe bringing fear, uncertainty and drastic countermeasures with it. A lot has changed in the half decade after we collectively watched "Tiger King" while keeping a close eye on the supply of toilet paper.

While change isn't always for the better, there are plenty of other places you can go if you'd like to rehash what society got wrong five years ago. Instead, I'd like to celebrate one of the many things that we gained through the pandemic that's made life better today: Shop Kansas Farms.

A little over a month into everyone staying at home while supply chains were straining to keep up with an unfathomable shift in where and what we were eating, Rick McNary's wife told him she saw an empty meat counter at the store earlier that day.

McNary understood that food is often bought at the grocery store but comes from farmers and ranchers, who were definitely still farming and ranching. He grabbed his laptop, opened up Facebook and created a group to connect shoppers with the farmers and ranchers who produce the food we eat.

It was the right solution at the right time. More than 5,000 members joined in the first 24 hours and that grew tenfold in the course of the first week. Five years later, Shop Kansas Farms is still growing with more than 170,000 members consisting of consumers looking for anything that grows in Kansas and the growers who can fulfill their orders.

The group has expanded to a searchable website, www.shopkansasfarms.com, and live events like the upcoming Market of Farms at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on March 29. Other states have even copied the model to connect buyers and sellers.

McNary's background as a pastor and in international relief efforts certainly helped in creating the viral sensation when Shop Kansas Farms first launched, as did timing. But it's grown because he understood the group was more than a mere marketplace.

It took off like a wildfire racing across the prairie because five years ago everyone was isolated and Shop Kansas Farms was a community. One that used modern tools to connect us in familiar ways.

Much as Shop Kansas Farms reimagined how shoppers purchase food during the pandemic, it's also working to make the supply chain more resilient through another idea from McNary. His Harvest Hub model starts with growers but also includes processors and distributors at a local or regional level.

McNary is always quick to point out he has had help even early on, but he has been the driving force behind the growth and evolution of Shop Kansas Farms. And he still adheres to one of the first mandates adopted shortly after creating the group: to prosper farmers and ranchers.

After five years of learning and development, the group is still going strong. Farmers and ranchers never stopped growing during the pandemic, and thanks to McNary we were able to keep shopping.

"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.

POST ROCK EXTENSION DISTRICT

Be on the lookout for a trio of insects in wheat and alfalfa this spring!

By Sandra L. Wick
K-State Research and Extension Post Rock Crop Production Agent

Well, spring is officially here, but March in Kansas can be somewhat unpredictable!!! You might want to put on your task list, to scout your wheat and alfalfa fields, after the snow melts and it warms back up, for some pesky culprits!!

Before the "blizzard", wheat and alfalfa fields were turning green and waking up!!! So this is when producers should get out and start scouting their fields for insects.

Army cutworms caused big problems in Kansas wheat and alfalfa fields in 2018 and 2019. The insect carries a very important distinction from armyworms and fall armyworms, two pests that created headaches for many producers last fall. Jeff Whitworth, K-State Research and Extension Entomologist, stresses that the army cutworm will over-winter as a worm, so they're out there feeding on wheat and alfalfa anytime the temperature gets above 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

If you had army cutworms last year, they're still going to be there in the spring. An indication of army cutworms in the field is if birds are hovering and looking for meals, there's a good chance the army cutworm is

their target.

According to Whitworth, it won't be the fall armyworms; they don't come back into Kansas until mid-July. He points out that if you have feeding early on, it's army cutworms, and they are there as a result of the moth flying around last fall depositing eggs.

Winter grain mites are another pest that might be a problem. They often capitalize on dry conditions in wheat fields which we were experiencing, but this last weather event might help with this a little! As their name suggests, the little critters are most active in cold weather - typically 30-50 degrees, stresses Whitworth. Generally, if we have good growing conditions, the wheat has no problem out-growing a significant winter grain mite infestation. But if the wheat is struggling from a lack of moisture and you have winter grain mites sucking the juice out of each cell, that can really add to the stress of the wheat plant.

A good rain is the best protection for wheat and alfalfa from winter grain mites. Whitworth, with more than four decades of experience, says he rarely recommends treating for mites with insecticides because usually we get rain in some form or fashion.

The Hessian Fly is yet another culprit that rears its ugly head!!! It is a dark-colored insect about one-eighth

inch long -- prefers wheat as a winter home, but it is in the spring that its damage becomes most apparent. Females lay eggs in the fall and the larvae gradually build a protective capsule often referred to as a flaxseed. Whitworth points out that if any place in the field seems to be going backwards -- as producers describe it, or it's not keeping up with the rest of the field -- then check that area to determine what the problem is.

Don't hesitate to contact me at any of our Post Rock Extension District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center for assistance in identifying insect pests in your fields. There is also a weekly update on Kansas crops that is available in the KSU Extension Agronomy online newsletter. If you would like to get on this listserv, simply give me a call.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Sandra may be contacted at swick@ksu.edu or by calling Smith Center, 282-6823, Beloit 738-3597, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato, 378-3174, or Osborne 346-2521. Join us on Facebook at "Post Rock Extension". Our "Quick Friday Facts" are published every week on our website www.postrock.ksu.edu and my twitter account is @PRDcrops.

SPICE UP YOUR LIFE - LINDSAY YOUNG

Don't skip this week's a'braising' recipe



Making red wine braised beef is a bit of a labor of love, but the rich flavors and tender vegetables produced by this recipe make it well worth the effort.

Several years ago, my parents gifted me with a gorgeous, red braising pot.

It's a ceramic-coated cast iron pot, and I always feel like whatever I put in it should be really extraordinary.

This week's recipe really fit the bill for using my special pot, since I was getting ready to embark on a dinner project that was going to take some decent preparation and several hours of braising to accomplish, and boy, did it stand up to the task.

The recipe I tried comes from the blog "Well Seasoned Studio" by Ari Laing. You can find the original post at <https://www.wellseasonedstudio.com/red-wine-braised-beef/>. I added extra garlic in my version.

Red Wine Braised Beef

Ingredients

- 3 1/2 to 4 pound beef chuck roast
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons canola or vegetable oil
- 1 large sweet onion, cut into one-inch pieces

- 2 leeks, halved and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 cups red wine (I used a cabernet sauvignon)
- 2 cups beef broth or stock
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons dijon mustard
- 2 bay leaves
- about 12 sprigs fresh thyme
- 3 large carrots, cut into one-inch pieces
- mashed potatoes, for serving

Directions

Set your roast out to come to room temperature while you prep all of your vegetables.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Using paper towels, pat the roast dry all the way around, and then season it liberally with salt and pepper.

Put a large Dutch oven (or braising pot—just make sure what you use is deep, has a lid and is oven-safe) on the stovetop and heat the oil on medium-high heat.

Add the roast, and sear it on all sides, cooking each side for about three or four minutes. Transfer the meat to a plate, and add the onion and leeks, along with just a bit more salt. Saute, stirring regularly, until they are soft.

Add the garlic to the pot and saute for one or two minutes until it just starts to brown and is fragrant.

Stir in the tomato paste, making sure to incorporate everything in the pot well.

Pour in the wine, and using a wooden spoon or spatula, scrape the bottom of the pot to get all the stuck on bits up. Let this cook for two or three

minutes, and then add the beef stock, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, bay leaves, thyme (I tied mine together in a bundle with cooking twine so it will be easy to remove later), and carrots. Add the roast back to the pot, pushing it down into the ingredients so that it's mostly submerged.

Cover with a lid and put the pot in the oven. Cook until the meat is tender enough to shred with a fork, which will take about three hours.

Remove the pot from the oven and use tongs to carefully put the roast on a cutting board. Let it rest for five to 10 minutes before shredding it with two forks.

Meanwhile, remove the thyme and bay leaves from the pot. Taste the sauce and add salt and pepper, if needed. Add the shredded beef back to the pot, and stir.

Serve the beef and veggies over mashed potatoes, along with some of the amazing sauce you created.

This was heavenly. The meat melted in your mouth, and the vegetables were cooked to perfection. We enjoyed a glass of the leftover cabernet sauvignon with our dinner, too, which made it feel extra special.

I have made plenty of chuck roasts in my slow cooker, and they're always delicious, but this treatment just took everything up a notch, and while it does take a bit of a time commitment, I will absolutely be making this again.

After all, I need all the excuses I can get to let my pretty cast iron pot shine.

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.

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PRAIRIE DOC BY ANDREW ELLSWORTH, MD

Pneumonia Vaccine Saves Lives

Over one hundred years ago, the gold mining industry of South Africa had a problem: too many workers were dying from pneumonia. They turned to Dr. Almorph Wright, a British physician who had successfully created a vaccine against typhoid fever that saved countless lives of British soldiers in World War I and other wars. Wright and his colleagues developed an inoculation of killed pneumococci bacteria which resulted in a substantial reduction of cases of pneumonia and death in the miners.

Pneumonia is an infection in the lungs that causes inflammation and accumulation of fluid or pus, making it difficult to breathe. Pneumonia can be caused by viruses, bacteria, and fungi. Risk factors for pneumonia include old age, young children, smok-

ing, lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma, other chronic medical conditions, poor air quality, and more.

Antibiotics have been revolutionary in treating bacterial pneumonia, decreasing the rates of death substantially. Unfortunately, antibiotics do not treat viruses, and early use of antibiotics in the course of a virus will not decrease the risk of pneumonia. If someone has cold symptoms, rest, fluids, time, and an expectorant like guaifenesin can be helpful. If symptoms get worse with the return or persistence of fevers, worsening cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain, please seek medical attention.

Vaccines for pneumonia, influenza, haemophilus influenzae (Hib), and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

have significantly decreased the rates of pneumonia. The pneumonia vaccine is now recommended for infants and young children, all adults over 50 years of age and those with certain chronic medical conditions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lowered the age recommendation from 65 to 50 in October 2024 since adults aged 50+ are 6.4x more likely than younger adults to get pneumococcal pneumonia.

The pneumonia vaccine has changed and updated through the years with the types of bacteria that are targeted. If you have already received a pneumonia vaccine, depending on what you have received and if it has been several years or if you have chronic medical conditions, you may want to

See "Doc" page 5



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