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Do you want to make a snowman?

*By Jyll Phillips,
Lincoln-Sentinel*

The county survived the first snow of the year and the first significant snow of the season when the sky opened and dumped several inches of snow across the county January 23-24. At press time the official snow report was not available, but throughout the county, residents saw anywhere from three inches to eight inches of beautiful, but bitterly cold snow. While falling short of the forecasts of up to 12 inches, the snow and painfully bitter temperatures kept folks at home.

According to the National Weather Service offices in Topeka and Wichita, the heaviest snowfall in the state was recorded at 1:37 p.m. January 25, measuring 12.5 inches in depth, 12 miles northwest of Coldwater. Closer to home, at the same time and date, 7.3 inches were recorded at Salina Municipal Airport.

From inside looking out, the snow was very inviting, and more than adequate for the construction of a stocky little snowperson. A few brave souls – those engaged in business or the courageous parents of very insistent little ones – voluntarily ventured out into a wonderland of subzero temperatures.

The bitter wind chills are hard for most people to tolerate for an extended length of time, but it is especially taxing for seniors. As we age, physical changes occur in the body that make older people more susceptible to cold.

For example, muscle mass tends to decrease with age, also decreasing the natural insulation muscle tissue provides. The skin tends to weaken or thin, allowing body heat to escape more easily, and changes in blood vessels decrease blood flow.

Certain medical conditions that are more prominent with age can also make

it more difficult to retain body heat, according to the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

Diabetes, affecting roughly

strict to prevent heat from escaping and to keep more blood around the body's core, causing blood pressure to rise. This phenomenon

weather and bundle up before you go outdoors. Don't overdo it. You can help your neighbors and still be sensible about it. If you have



A yardstick in the snow measures the depth at the home of Cody and Ashley Wolting, nine miles south of Lincoln. (Courtesy Photo)

one third of adults 65 and older, can prevent blood from flowing normally, disrupting temperature regulation. Thyroid problems can also affect the body's ability to maintain a normal body temperature. Age-related memory issues can prevent a patient from remembering to take certain precautions, like dressing appropriately.

Extreme temperatures can also affect existing medical conditions. For example, the American Heart Association explains that when it's old out, our blood vessels con-

is also why over-exertion in the extreme cold has been known to result in cardiac arrest.

Dry, frigid air can irritate the airways and worsen chronic conditions like COPD and asthma, and can weaken the immune system, making us more prone to infection.

There are positive aspects to living in a snow globe as long as you prepare. Your yard can be a beautiful thing and there are no bugs and no mowing. Winter outdoor play is the best but check the

vascular issues, heart condition, respiratory problems, high blood pressure or a whacky thyroid, be careful, especially if you are not a youngster. Be aware of the risks and how to recognize warning signs.

And as you relax in your warm home enjoying a hot beverage, notice how pretty your yard looks under a blanket of snow. No bugs. No weeds. No mowing. And you don't have to go outdoors to enjoy it!

Post Rock Community Foundation announces 2026 Match Month

The Post Rock Community Foundation is excited to announce that February is Match Month! In 2025, contributions helped the foundation raise over \$75,000 to impact our community during our match event. This year the goal is \$100,000 for the February 2026 Match Month.

As in years past, the Dane G Hansen Foundation is providing a 200% match on the first \$50,000 in donations to the Post Rock Community Action Fund. Thanks to our donors and the continued support of the Dane G. Hansen Foundations, February 2026 Match Month will significantly grow the Foundation's endowed, unrestricted grant fund and support foundation operations, allowing PRCF to make a meaningful and lasting impact across the Post Rock region. An additional match may become available during the month. Watch the PRCF Facebook page for announcements.

February is a great month to donate and empower the Post Rock Community Foundation to "Impact Today and Transform Tomorrow." PRCF serves Lincoln County and the communities served by the school districts USD #298 and USD #299.

Donations may be mailed to PRCF, PO Box 62, Sylvan Grove, KS 67481 with checks dated and postmarked in the month of February or give online at <https://postrockcf.org/>.



Of interest to veterans

February is a short month, but it won't be devoid of things to do at the VFW #7928/American Legion post home!

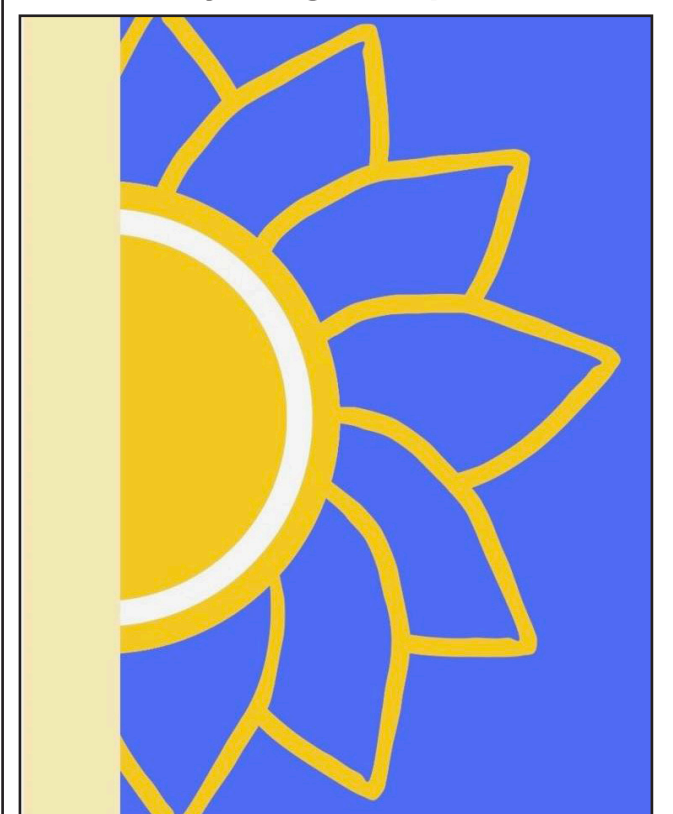
As always, the organizational meetings are in the second week of the month. The VFW Auxiliary meets February 10, the VFW members meet February 11, and the American Legion members will meet February 12.

The second Saturday is always Steak Night at the VFW and this year it falls on February 14. The canteen is now open to the public so bring your valentine for a fine "wine and dine" evening at the VFW.

The fourth Saturday of the month is always karaoke night at the VFW. Always a popular night at the "V," everyone is invited to join in on the festivities.

Other days in February to remember are President's Day on February 16, the birthday of the Coast Guard Reserve and on February 24, the Gulf War ground offensive took place.

City flag adopted



Lincoln Center Improvement Committee is happy to announce the official adoption of our new city flag.

A flag was presented to Lincoln Center city council at their January 2026 meeting and adopted by council members as the official city flag. The winning flag was designed and submitted by Shelby Errebo.

Garden flags of the official city flag are available for sale for \$20. The garden stake is not included. If interested in purchasing a garden flag, please contact any LCIC member or send a message through Facebook. Members include Lisa Feldkamp, Carly Errebo, Shelby Errebo, Vicki Hook, Breanna Brown, Chris Gerbetz, Marcia Kraft and Jyll Phillips.

Lincoln Esports scores well at first tournament



The Leopards Esports team went to the first annual Ellsworth esports tournament on Thursday, January 22. The team came home as champions in both Mario Kart and Smash Brothers. Pictured, Lincoln's Ian Ryan (in plaid pants) competes against his opponent during tournament play. (Photo courtesy of USD 298)

Celebrating our great state since 1861



Kansas Day is celebrated on January 29 each year to recognize the day Kansas was admitted to the Union in 1861 as the 34th state. From its rolling prairies and hardworking agricultural roots to its rich history in railroads, aviation, and the western frontier, Kansas continues to take pride in its communities and heritage. Whether you mark the day with a sunflower, a slice of pie, or just a quiet appreciation for the place we call home, Happy Kansas Day!

Cash Grain

Corn.....	\$3.66
Milo.....	\$3.21
Soybeans.....	\$9.56
Wheat.....	\$4.72

Cash prices courtesy of Ag Mark

Community Calendar

Thursday, January 29

USD 298: LES FAMILY NIGHT - 6:00 P.M.
USD 299: 4pm Little Cheer Clinic @ Lucas Community Center; 4pm JH BB @ Lakeside

Friday, January 30

USD 298: 4:00 PM HS BB @ NATOMA; NO PRE-K - PBIS TRAINING
USD 299

Saturday, January 31

USD 298: JH BB PTL TOURNAMENT @ TESCOTT; 12 pm HS NPL Basketball Tournament
USD 299: JH BB PTL Tourney Play In @ TBD NPL Tournament in Lincoln; Speech & Drama Tourney @ Republic County; 9am Free Throw Contest @ Sylvan; 9am HS Boys Basketball C Team @ La Crosse

Sunday, February 1

USD 299: 1:30pm 3/4th grade boys basketball; 3:15pm 5/6th grade boys basketball

Monday, February 2

USD 298: JH BB PTL TOURNAMENT @ TESCOTT
USD 299: HS Scholar Bowl @ Osborne; JH BB PTL Tourney @ TBD

Tuesday, February 3

USD 298: 4:00 PM HS BB @ STOCKTON
USD 299: 4pm HS BB Rock Hills @ Mankato

Wednesday, February 4

USD 298: NPL/PLT MEETING; SPECIAL BOARD MEETING @ 6:00 PM
USD 299: FFA Speech LDE @ Clay Center; StuCo mtg. during seminar; 5:30pm Schoen Bridal altering choir dresses; 6pm 3/4th grade boys basketball; 6pm FCA Meeting & Meal; 6:30pm Booster Club mtg.

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.

TESCOTT JR/SR HIGH FALL 2025 - HONOR ROLL

ALPHA (4.0)

CLASS OF 2030
STINNA HUNLEY
KELLIAN PETERSON
CAROLINE YATES

CLASS OF 2029
ZUHRYA AITA
GRACIE MILLER

PRINCIPALS (3.5-3.99)

CLASS OF 2031
AUSTYN KRONE
HUNTER SALAZAR
NATAYAH VALEKA
BENJAMIN WILLARD

CLASS OF 2030
ADILIESE AITA
KYLE NELSON
ALEXIS THOMPSON

CLASS OF 2029
AUBREY ADAMS
TY EBERT
PARKER GRAVES
ALANI STANLEY
HAILEY THORNHILL
NEVAEH TROMBLE

CLASS OF 2028
JACE KRONE
EMMALEE RYAN
BRODY THOMPSON

CLASS OF 2027
JAXSON LEE
AYDEN VELASQUEZ

CLASS OF 2026
KARINA MCMILLAN
CHARLIE PHELPS

SCHOLASTIC (3.0-3.49)

CLASS OF 2031
LANDYN ZACHGO

CLASS OF 2030
ETHAN ADAMS
CAHYA BEAUCHAMP

CLASS OF 2029
AUBREE WEIS

CLASS OF 2027
AREIAL JORGENSEN
ELIZABETH WENTHE
LELAND WILLARD

CLASS OF 2026
BENJAMIN CASE
CARTER FERN
LONI PASLEY
JALEIGH TROW



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Lincoln Grocery

Meyer Tire
Mity Mart
Post Rock Aviation
Scoular
Seirer's Clothing
Susan Marshall, Attorney at Law
Sylvan Sales Commission
USD #299, Sylvan Unified School District
Viv's Retail Liquor
Wilson Communications

Congratulations

DENMARK DAMES SERVICE CLUB - JANET HUMBURG, SECRETARY

The Dames met on January 6, 2026, at the home of Georgie DeArvill. Members present were Georgie DeArvill, Elaine Parrish, Janet Humburg, Connie Crawford, Elsie Driscoll, Shirley Nelson-Hough, and guests Ardene Smith, and Yolanda Dow.

Georgie welcomed the Dames to her home. We had a discussion about losing your phone.

Opening: Georgie showed the ladies two pictures of herself and Bud from her genealogy materials, in their younger years. She also had a picture of herself and her dear friend.

Roll Call: What president from history do you like? Connie liked Ronald Reagan because he got things done. His motto was "strength through peace". Janet likes Teddy Roosevelt because he was energetic.

His motto was "speak softly but carry a big stick". Georgie liked Teddy because of her uncle. Teddy built up the navy and sent them around the world as a show of strength. Shirley likes Dwight Eisenhower. Yolanda said she saw him at a parade in Salina. Ardene likes Harry S. Truman because he spoke his mind. His motto was "the buck stops here". Elsie said her parents didn't allow them to voice opinions but to keep it private.

The minutes from the last meeting were read. They were amended to say the dinner date changed due to weather.

Treasurer's Report: The balance remains the same. There were no "Thank You's".

Correspondence: Connie read a Christmas letter from Joleen. Friends of the Lincoln Carnegie

Library sent membership information. Membership is \$50. The Finch Theater sent information on levels of giving. In the past we gave both \$50 each. Shirley made the motion to donate \$25 to each organization. Elaine seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

New Business: Dues were \$5. A motion was made to have Yolanda Dow to become a member of the Dames. All were in favor of her membership.

Next meeting is at Elsie Driscoll's house on February 2, 2026. The Dames will make Valentines for the high rise and nursing home. There will be a gift exchange. No old business.

For fun, Georgie challenged the ladies to make snowflakes. Following the challenge the ladies enjoyed coffee and a cranberry pretzel dessert.



Monday, February 2

Chicken Fried Steak, Potatoes & Gravy, Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Fruit, Roll & Milk

Tuesday, February 3

Chicken and Noodles, Kidney Bean Salad, Peaches, Cooke, Roll & Milk

Wednesday, February 4

Autumn Apple Pork Loin, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Pears, Roll & Milk

Thursday, February 5

Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Garlic Bread, Fruit & Milk

Friday, February 6

Pizza Pasta Casserole, Italian Veggies Medley, Garlic Bread Stick, Fruit & 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.

2026 Lions Club Pancake Day

Saturday, February 7
7 a.m. - 2 p.m

Tescott Lions Building

DONATION ONLY - EAT IN or CARRY OUT

Pancake Breakfast



Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Chili & Desserts

For Sale: Whole Hog Sausage Bulk-\$4.50/lb. Patties-\$5.00/lb.

DRAWINGS FOR

(2) Half Hams & (2) Half Loins (4 winners)
\$1 per ticket or \$5 for (6) tickets

THE ANGLE - BY ALEXA ROMESBURG

THE ANGLE

There is a shifting trend in journalism today. And it is not a good one. Local journalism is fading fast, as a dying ember in the ashes of what was once a roaring fire illuminating the stories of our times, casting bold, fiery light on the world and the communities we live in. But that was then. This, unfortunately, is now. Hometown papers are closing down for good by the thousands. That is no exaggeration. Charles Sennott is founder, CEO, and editor-in-chief of "The GroundTruth Project" which is a non-profit endeavor whose mission, as stated on their website, is to serve under-covered communities by supporting the next generation of journalists to do on-the-ground reporting. According to Mr. Sennott, "2,000 communities across America have lost their local paper. 1,300 no longer have any local news coverage at all." This is a cultural crisis.

We have a bevy of crises

in our nation and world today. Turn on the television or check in with any online source of news and you will quickly find yourself inundated with stories on crisis after crisis after crisis. Some are closer to home, such as the car accident which saw tragic fatalities, or the shifting economy which touches everyone at some level. Then others are concerning things happening in other parts of the world, like the war in Ukraine, or the political crisis in Venezuela. And yet sadly, there are still more and more crises that can and do vie for our attention at times even overwhelming our nervous systems, which effectively shuts us down, ultimately desensitizing us to a point of near apathy at worst and disengagement at a minimum. With all these life-threatening, life-changing, and various global crises in the world we live in, one can scarcely afford to care about the relatively smaller, less headline-grabbing

crises such as losing the benefit of local journalism in a hometown newspaper. It seems to pale in comparison to the major events of our lifetime and the current events in our world today. Yet does it really? Or is it significant? A casualty of this new age, found in the rubble of life as we once knew it? U.S. Senator, Jerry Moran, spoke directly to this on January 15, 2026 in a heartfelt address to Congress which paid tribute to the death of his hometown paper, The Plainville Times. He said, "Community journalism is important to the future of communities across Kansas and the nation." He is right. It is. He went on to say, "Today, community journalism faces growing challenges with rapidly changing media environment as well as a workforce, struggles, and financial strains. Many rural newspapers have very limited staffs and it's not uncommon for one person to fill the role of reporter, photographer, & editor." Shout out to our very own, Jyll Phillips. She would heartily agree with Senator Moran on this point, as she has

personally been filling those three roles by herself for nearly a decade and a half. These are not trivial points made by our Kansas representative. No matter which party or side of the aisle to which we pledge our political allegiance, the loss of local journalism and hometown reporting is a loss for everyone. Senator Moran recognized the value of his hometown paper saying, "The Plainville Times has kept the community informed on important local issues like new business coming to town, city council meetings, the score of the high-school football games." Shout out to our own, Becky Rathbun for our Friday night high-school football (and basketball, and track, and swim, and volleyball) game scores. Really what Senator Moran had to say about his hometown paper could be copied and pasted to bespeak almost any small-town newspaper, including ours, The Lincoln Sentinel-Republican. For example, when speaking of what the Plainville Times did for the community of Plainville, he could just have eas-

See "Angle" page 6

Contact Information: Lincoln Sentinel-Republican

lincolnsnews@gmail.com • Phone 785-524-4200

OBITUARY



Clifford Martin Meier
January 16, 2026

Clifford Martin Meier, 82, passed away at his home in Lincoln, KS on Friday, January 16, 2026, following an extended illness. He was born the fifth of seven children to Martin and Alberta (Meyer) Meier at the family farm two miles east of St. Paul Lutheran Church in southeast Lincoln County. Clifford was a 1961

graduate of Lincoln High School. After graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served for three years and was stationed in Germany. He was a lifetime member of the Lincoln VFW Post 7928. Clifford married Vivian Lawless at St. John Lutheran Church on January 2, 1971. He worked at several jobs including for the Mobil station in Lincoln. He became the manager of the Mobil station located at the I-70 and K-14 intersection near Ellsworth when it opened in 1967. Clifford would later purchase the station and was the owner and operator of Cliff's Service which carried the Conoco brand for many years. He sold the station in 2008 after 35 years in business. He remained working at the station as an employee of D&S Convenience Shop until the summer of 2024.

Clifford is survived by his wife of 55 years, Vivian; daughter Marsha Drennan (Mark); grandchildren Mattie and Marek Drennan; siblings, Anita Lewis, Clarence Meier,

Kenneth Meier, Nolan Meier (Debbie), and Lleanna Wollesen (Jerry); and beloved friend and co-worker, Desiree Newell (Brian) and their daughters, Madison, Brooklyn, and Reese. He was preceded in death by his sister Laura Princ and her husband Edwin, as well as brother-in-law Leroy Lewis and sisters-in-law, Lore Meier and Deanna Meier.

Visitation: 2-7 p.m., Friday, January 23, 2026 at Hall Chapel of Lincoln with family present to greet visitors 5-7 p.m.

Funeral service: 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 24, 2026 at St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln with burial following at Lincoln Cemetery with military honors. A luncheon will follow the burial back at St. John Lutheran Church.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln County Hospital, or Lincoln Senior Center, c/o, Hall Chapel, PO Box 37, Lincoln, KS 67455. Condolences can be left at hallchapel.com.

KSU NW Forage Schools

Cropping systems and cow herds go hand-in-hand, and it is increasingly important for producers to properly manage their crop rotations to determine how they fit together for both enterprises. To address the topic of forage management, K-State Extension, has scheduled six regional schools during the month of February 2026. These schools have been designed to help producers understand crop rotations to achieve the best investment especially in this farm environment.

The schedule is the following:
February 3 – Wakeeney – 9:30 a.m. to NOON – Trego Co. Fairgrounds
February 3 – Sylvan Grove – 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Livestock

Commission
February 4 – Stockton – 9:30 a.m. to NOON – Harding Hall 4-H Building
February 4 – Atwood – 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Rawlins Co. 4-H Building

February 5 – Sharon Springs – 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (MT) – Community Activity Building
February 5 – Dighton – 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Lane Co. 4-H Building

The schools will be presented by Dr. Augustine Obour, K-State Soils Specialist (Hays) and Dr. Logan Simon, K-State SW Area Agronomist. Forages can fit in many operations so join us to learn about cur-

rent research in winter and summer forages. Be sure and bring all your questions with you! 2.5 CCA credits have been applied for.

There is no cost for the schools, however, pre-registration is requested by Friday, February 2, for all schools either online, <https://bit.ly/ForageSchools> or at your local Extension Office. Thanks to sponsors Central Valley Ag and The Bank of Tescott for sponsoring the supper for the Sylvan Grove location. If you have further questions, contact Sandra Wick, Crop Production Agent, at 785-282-6823. A minimum of 10 pre-registered producers are needed to hold each of the schools. Hope to see you there!

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) Application Period Opens in Kansas

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) has announced that applications are now being accepted for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). The application period runs from Tuesday, Jan. 20, through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

LIEAP provides a one-time per year benefit to help qualifying households pay winter heating costs, whether the home is heated with electricity, natural gas, propane, or other home heating fuels. In 2025, more than 43,000 Kansas households received an average benefit of about \$680.

“LIEAP plays a critical role in helping Kansas families remain safe and warm through the state’s often harsh winter months,” said DCF Secretary Laura Howard.

The federal government shutdown in late 2025 delayed the distribution

of LIEAP funding to states for the 2026 season, which in turn delayed DCF’s planning efforts and the start of the 2026 application period.

Qualifying for LIEAP
To qualify, households must have an adult at the address responsible for the home’s heating costs. Applicants must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty level (see the 2026 income eligibility guidelines below). The level of benefit received varies according to household income, number of people living in the home, type of residence, type of heating fuel, and utility rates.

Applying for LIEAP
Applications can be accessed online at dcf.ks.gov by clicking the “Apply for Services” button on the top right side of the website.

DCF is planning in-person events to help Kansans submit their LIEAP applications. For a schedule of in-

person LIEAP application events, visit lieap.dcf.ks.gov and click on “Where are the in-person LIEAP application events being held this year” in the drop-down menu.

When applying for LIEAP, Kansans should have their identification, proof of income for all adult household members, copies of heating utility bills (gas, electric, propane, etc.), and a copy of their rental agreement if they are living in subsidized housing.

Learn more about LIEAP in Kansas, including frequently asked questions, other community resources, and the complete schedule of LIEAP application events at lieap.dcf.ks.gov. Funding for LIEAP is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Service through the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.



<p>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</p>	<p>LINCOLN PARK MANOR CHAPEL Morning Worship @ 9:30 am Afternoon Worship @ 2:30 pm</p>
<p>BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS Pastor Christopher Craig Sylvan Grove, Kansas Sunday School following Worship Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am</p>	<p>LINCOLN UNITED METHODIST Worship Service @ 10:30 am Alternate Pastor & Lay Leaders provide Communion</p>
<p>BEVERLY COMMUNITY CHURCH www.beverlycommunitychurch.org Pastor Toby Flaming Sunday School @ 9:30 am Morning Worship @ 10:45 am</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Sylvan Grove, Kansas Sunday School @ 10:00 am Church @ 11:00 am</p>
<p>CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Sunday School @ 9:30 am Worship Service @ 10:30 am Nursery available during service Light Keepers Wed. @6:30 grades 6-12 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7am @ The Cube</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>CULVER METHODIST CHURCH Pastor Demerle Eckart 401 Main Street, Culver, Ks Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am Saturday Coffee @ 8-10 am</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>DENMARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, ELCA Worship Service @ 10:30 am</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA Pastor Rod Thompson, Tescott Worship Service @ 9:00 am</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Carolyn Allen, Barnard Morning Worship @ 11:00 pm</p>	<p>TESCOTT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Pastor Demerle Eckart Sunday School @ 10:00 am Worship @ 11:00 am</p>
<p>GRACE CHAPEL-HUNTER Pastors Kaye & Jeff Metzler Worship Service @ 9:00 am</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>LINCOLN COMMUNITY CHURCH www.lincolncommunitychurch.org Pastor Steven Rohn Sunday School @ 9:30 am Worship Service @ 10:30 am Women of Grace.Wed. @ 5:30 pm To rent the cube call Michael Pickering 785-488-7049. Sunday Evening Service @ 6:30 Adventure Club Wed. 6pm - 7pm Ages 3-12</p>	<p>St. John Lutheran Church Two and 1/2 miles south of Lincoln on Highway 14 Pastor Don Haselhuhn. Service Times: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.</p>

Church schedules are made possible by the following sponsors:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

CONSUMER CONNECTION

Consumer Connection: Get your property ready for winter storms

Topeka, Kan. – As the first severe winter weather system of 2026 arrives in Kansas, now is the time to take simple steps to prevent damage to your home from snow and ice. Be sure to review your homeowners and renters’ insurance policies to know what protections you may have against common winter damage and contact your agent to review your policy and ensure you are covered for potential winter-related damages to your home or property.

The Kansas Department of Insurance 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.

“Every Kansan should take precautionary steps this winter to protect their property from freezing temperatures and winter weather,” said Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. “If you need assistance with an insurance claim that arises from a winter storm, the Department is ready to help.”

If you have an insurance claim this winter, be sure to review the Department’s Homeowners Claims Settle-

ment Guide to help you through the claims process. If you or someone you know is having trouble with an insurance claim, please contact the Kansas Insurance Department’s Consumer Assistance Division toll-free at 1-800-432-2484, email KDOI.Complaints@ks.gov or visit the Department 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.



Norton Livestock Market, Inc.

Upcoming February sales for Norton Livestock are on Thursday starting at 1:00 p.m. as follows:

Thursday, February 5 – Special calf & yearling sale w/ regular sale

Thursday, February 12 – Special bred heifer-stock cow-pair sale w/ regular sale

Thursday, February 19 – Regular sale

Thursday, February 26 – Regular sale

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

Got a local story or event? Email: lincolnsnews@gmail.com today!

Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau - opinion

Sunsets and sisal twine

Greg Doering
Kansas Farm Bureau

Kansas was admitted to the United States on Jan. 29, 1861, after a tumultuous territorial existence as bloody as it was brief. Those early struggles likely informed the state's motto: "Ad Astra per Aspera" or "to the stars though difficulties."

In light of the Sunflower State's upcoming milestone, here are a few bits of random trivia gathered from mostly reputable books, websites and memories.

Its status as the nation's best state wasn't cemented until Frank Stoerber created the world's largest ball of twine in Cawker City. Certain sites on the internet qualify the claim of "world's largest" by noting it's the "largest ball of sisal twine built by a community." What those sites fail to disclose is that Stoerber had the foresight to donate the ball to the city in 1961, which promptly built a gazebo over it to prevent it from rolling away.

Stoerber's sisal sphere continues to grow with annual "twine-a-thons" each August, and it has also served as the inspiration for some other comically large attractions around the state, like the world's largest easel in Goodland. Standing 80 feet tall, it holds a 32-by-24-foot replica of a Vincent van Gogh painting of sunflowers.

Wilson is home to the world's largest hand-painted Czech Egg, which clocks in at 20 feet high and 15 feet wide. Meanwhile, the northernmost stop on the Chisholm Trail was Abilene, and appropriately, since 2022, the city boasts the world's largest belt buckle.

Kansas is also home to some notable firsts like Atchison's Amelia Earhart who was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. Independence hosted the first professional night baseball game in 1930. Today Wichita is known as the "Air Capital of the World" for airplane manufacturing, but its culinary contributions include both the first White Castle and Pizza Hut.

In agriculture, Wichita also boasts the world's largest grain terminal, capable of holding 20 million bushels across 246 silos that stretch more than 2,600 feet.

Contrary to popular belief, Kansas isn't the flattest state. Florida holds that title with its highest point 345 feet above sea level. Kansas' elevation ranges from just less than 700 feet above sea level in the southeast corner,

See "Insight" page 5

PRAIRIE DOC BY GREG HEIBERGER, PhD & ASHLEY McCONNELL, MS

For the health of it. Be Selfish: Invest in education. Your own and the kids down the street.

When we asked ChatGPT if it was a good idea to invest in education it responded with the wisdom and confidence of a sentient being who believes they are on the cusp of knowing everything. It told me the reason to invest in education and yourself is primarily financial, using examples like increased lifetime earnings, career stability, etc. And yes, although these things are true and GPT was not hallucinating, it missed the mark.

Education abroad programs through universities are one of the many vetted, safe, hands on, transformative experiences educational institutions provide to students and a great way for students to invest in their learning. This past May we coled our fifth education abroad program with nearly 30 future healthcare professionals to Ghana. We spent 2 weeks in west Africa shadowing and learning, providing support as needed, developing empathy, and building communication, diagnostic, & clinical skills. This experience was transformational, for me as an educator, and for every student who is so fortunate to invest in themselves in this way.

Over the span of 2 weeks students spent half of each day shadowing in the KNUST Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana. We then engaged deeply in the community and culture each afternoon. Students visited a local elementary school, the largest market in west Africa, learned local history, and toured a slave trade castle where 30,000 slaves made their way through the door of no return each

year. We were fortunate enough to participate in a safari with close-up experiences with monkeys, baboons, elephants and more. Finally, we spent a few days learning about the history and current healthcare system in the U.K. with our boots on the ground in London. We rode big red busses and saw Big Ben, and hosted a guest lecture with a professor from Cambridge Medical School. In just 17 days, students had powerful opportunities to learn about healthcare systems in hands-on ways across the world.

These experiences built empathy, opened students' eyes to the developing world, and transformed their lives and their future work as healthcare providers. As students reflected on their experiences in the hospital, they started to see how culture influences a person's experience with healthcare and then started to see those same values reflected in our afternoon excursions. One quote from a student highlighted family and how that extends to the community: "After seeing how these patients rely on their family and how family-orientated their culture is, I was challenged to see the importance and role of family in the US."

To learn more, tune in to Prairie Doc Programming to see and hear directly from students about their life-changing experiences. We guarantee you'll leave inspired and hopeful. Then use that inspiration to invest in yourself, set a goal to read more, attend a webinar, recommit to your health and wellness goals, and if you find yourself so inclined

to invest in the education of others check out <https://www.sdstatealum-nifoundation.org>.

We want to interject one final observation. We want to assure you the kids are alright. There are many negative hot takes about the younger generation and overall they are wrong. Keep investing in these amazing youth and our future is bright – the kids are alright!

Dr. Greg Heiberger serves as the interim dean of the Van D. & Barbara B. Fishback Honors College. He previously served as associate dean of academics and student success in the College of Natural Sciences at South Dakota State University and is a tenured associate professor in the Biology & Microbiology Department. He helped to create and implement the SDSU - KNUST relationship, has led numerous study abroad experiences including 4 courses to Ghana.

Ashley is the Coordinator for Student Success with the College of Natural Sciences. She has been advising pre-medical students since 2022 and has led several study abroad programs, including 3 programs to Ghana. She also teaches First Year Seminar and Career Seminar courses, and MCAT prep every spring.

Follow *The Prairie Doc*® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. *Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc*®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

POST ROCK EXTENSION DISTRICT

New Year, New Seed Catalogs

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

The new year means many of us are making resolutions and starting fresh. Before we know it, the gardening season will be here, and we will have a chance to till the soil and plant seeds. But we don't have to be sad during the cold winter months because it's seed catalog season! I love opening my mailbox this time of year and flipping through colorful seed catalogs with thoughts of spring in mind. It's easy to get overwhelmed by the amount of varieties and vast selection catalogs offer. Here are some tips on what to look for and how to take the stress out of starting seeds.

The first step is to assess your garden and landscape. Bundle up and take a walk outside. See what kind of plants you have and what you would like to change or add. Note open areas and if you will need plants that are sun or shade loving. Now is also a good time to think about your garden. What worked well and what varieties do you know were not successful? It can be helpful to keep a garden journal to remember what you have planted and the pros and cons of each vegetable. It's also important to sketch your garden so you can rotate crops properly.

Once you come inside and start looking through the catalogs, it's easy to get carried away. Make sure you know what each symbol and abbreviation means. There is often information or a key at the front explaining how the catalog works. You will see descriptions such as organic seeds, full/part sun, butterfly attracting, and many more. It's important to be familiar with these symbols when you start shopping in a catalog.

When reading the descriptions of vegetable varieties, you will often come across certain terms or vocabulary that you will need to know in order to have success in the garden. Most fruits and vegetables will be labeled by the maturity date or days to harvest. This is simply the average number of days from sowing the seeds in the garden to when you can expect to harvest the produce. Remember, it's just an average range, and many factors can affect it. You may also see terms such as hybrid, heirloom or open pollinated seeds. Hybrid seeds are varieties created by cross pollination of two desired parent plants. This cross produces a plant with desirable characteristics such as color, taste, or even disease resistance. You can expect to see their names written as F1, F2, or with an X. Heirloom seeds can also be referred

to as open pollinated. They have been passed down from generation to generation. Heirloom seeds can be saved and used again and again, creating a self-sufficient garden.

The last step is to make your shopping list and order! It's always fun to try a couple of new and unique vegetables or varieties, but remember to plant what you know your family will eat. Set your garden up for success by choosing vegetables proven to perform well across Kansas. You can stop by the Extension Office for a list of K-State Recommended Vegetable Varieties. It might also be fun to talk with neighbors or community garden members about what has worked best for them and even trade favorite seeds.

This season, get your garden plans started early. Take a little extra time to really understand your seed catalogs and know exactly what you will be getting when those seeds arrive for spring. If you have any questions about ordering or starting seeds, contact your local Extension Office.

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

Farmers & Ranchers Livestock Commission Co.

Total for the Week - Cattle –
Bulls - \$200 - \$211 Cows - \$168 - \$180

Strs		Hftrs	
300-400	\$620.00-630.00	300-400	\$540.00-555.00
400-500	\$545.00-557.00	400-500	\$510.00-520.00
500-600	\$505.00-515.00	500-600	\$455.00-465.00
600-700	\$459.00-470.00	600-700	\$390.00-401.00
700-800	\$385.00-\$396.00	700-800	\$350.00-360.00
800-900	\$350.00-361.00	800-900	\$315.00-324.00
900-1000	\$330.00-340.50	900-1000	\$285.00-295.00

Early Consignments for Thursday, January 29th Sale: 10 a.m.: 15 blk/red hftrs, 600-700, wean 60 days; 61 blk/red str, 825-875, all AI sired; 25 mostly blk hftrs, 750, long wean, open; 55 blk hftrs, 600-800, long wean vacc, open, Cow Camp sired; 45 blk/red s&h, 600-700, home raise, long wean 2 round vacc, open; plus many more by sale time.

Early consignments for Wean/Vacc sale, February 3: 11 str, 500-700; 10 blk s&h, 350-450, home raise, wean 90 days, Don Johnson sired; 8 s&h, 550-700, wean Oct. 6, home raise; 120 blk s&h, 650-750, 2 round vacc; 45 blk/bwf str, 700-800, home raise, wean Nov.22, spring & fall vacc, no imp.; 35 red/charX s&h; 95 red s&h, 600-700; 12 blk s&h, 500#s, wean 90 days, fall vacc, open, McCurry ang. Sired; 200 blk s&h, 650-850, 2 round vacc, Don Johnson sire; 280 blk/bwf s&h, 500-700, 80% home raise, 20% 1 iron; 107 blk s&h, 500-700, home raise, 2 round vacc; 75 blk s&h, 500-800, home raise, 2 round vacc; 50 blk ang. s&h, 650-750; 120 blk/red str, 550-650, wean 100 days, off stalks, 3 round vacc; 100 blk s&h, 450-600, home raise, long wean, 2 round vacc; 120 blk s&h, 550-700, home raise, wean 45+days, 3 round vacc (2fall); plus more by sale time.

Cow Sales

Tuesday, February 17 (11 am)

Tuesday, March 17 (11 am)

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Tuesday, February 3

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Auctioneers:

Kyle Elwood, Brandon Hamel, and Garren Walrod

Legal Notice

(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, January 28, 2026)

CITY OF BEVERLY, KANSAS SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025					
Fund	Beginning		Receipts	Expenditures	Ending Cash 12/31/24
	Cash				
General	\$95,750.59		\$61,619.90	\$85,261.70	\$72,108.79
Special Street & Highway	\$14,935.27		\$4,004.42	\$3,726.85	\$15,212.84
Water Utility	\$38,888.01		\$52,495.21	\$32,654.16	\$58,729.06
Sewer Utility	\$26,139.09		\$21,571.54	\$10,501.61	\$37,209.02
Refuse	-\$4,526.54		\$11,135.25	\$6,608.71	\$0.00
Savings Interest	\$0.00		\$709.59	\$0.00	\$709.59
Capital Improvement - Well Project Reserve	\$34,063.47		\$2,066.00	\$7,241.01	\$28,888.46
Total	\$205,249.89		\$153,601.91	\$145,994.04	\$212,857.76
Composition of Cash:					
Wilson State Bank: Checking Account Balance as of 12/31/25			\$109,430.69		
Outstanding Deposits			\$0.00		
Outstanding Checks as of 12/31/25			-\$809.99		
Wilson State Bank Savings Account			\$8,711.50		
Certificate of Deposits			\$95,525.56		
Total			\$212,857.76		
Summary of Indebtedness: General Obligation Bonds					
Water System Revenue Bond Balance as of December 31, 2025			\$151,546.85		
Certified by: Rhonda Bell, City Clerk					

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The Official Newspaper for Lincoln County Kansas

LINCOLN SENTINEL-REPUBLICAN

TO SUBMIT NEWS: Lincoln Sentinel-Republican welcomes news and will print it as it fits our guidelines. The best way to submit news is e-mail it to lincolnnews@gmail.com, mail it to 141 W. Lincoln Ave, Lincoln, KS 67455.

TO ADVERTISE: Lincoln Sentinel-Republican offers retail and classified advertising. We can build an ad campaign to fit your budget and reach our loyal readership. For all advertising placements, please email lincolnnews@gmail.com, call our office, 785-524-4200, or mail it to 141 W. Lincoln Ave, Lincoln, KS 67455.

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NOTICE

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that, to the best of our knowledge, all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. Equal Housing Opportunity.

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Legal Notice

(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, January 14, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE of

DUANE S. HELUS A/K/A

DUANE SCOTT HELUS, DECEASED
LC-2025-PR-000017

Proceeding Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on **December 29, 2025**, a petition was filed in this Court by **Linda Rosebrook**, as executor named in the Last Will and Testament of **Duane S. Helus a/k/a Duane Scott Helus**, deceased, dated April 27, 2009, requesting the Will filed with the petition be admitted to probate and record; Petitioner be appointed as executor, without bond, and Petitioner be granted Letters Testamentary.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before **February 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM** in the District Court of Lincoln County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgement and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Linda Rosebrook
PETITIONER

James R. Angell, #19329
KENNEDY BERKLEY, P.A.
119 W. Iron Ave., 7th Floor
Salina, KS 67401
Phone: (785) 825-4674
Fax: (785) 825-5936
jangell@kenberk.com
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Insight/ from page 4

rising to more than 4,000 at the peak of Mount Sunflower in Wallace County.

Formerly the "Queen of the Cowntowns" and "Cowboy Capital of the World," Dodge City is perhaps better known as the United States' windiest city with an average breeze of about 15 mph, roughly 50 percent more than "Windy City" poser Chicago.

There's a long history of innovative and accomplished folks from Kansas who have shaped not just our state but the nation and world as well. They were undoubtedly influenced by the same natural wonders we are today.

It's worth taking a moment or two on the day our state was born to acknowledge these accomplishments and note that in addition to hosting large objects and being first in many endeavors, Kansas and its vast sky are home to the best sunsets we get to share with some of the finest people.

There are certainly still difficulties to overcome before we reach the stars, but until we do, Kansas is a good place to call home.

"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.



Deines Cultural Center

The next art exhibition at the Deines Cultural Center features the artwork of Russell native Cheryl Herrman. *Folded Treasures* is an exhibition of old books given new life as works of art. Herrman's delightful, repurposed folded books at the Deines Cultural Center from January 25 to March 11th.

The Deines Cultural Center is located at 820 N. Main Street in Russell. Call 785-483-3742 for more information.



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Angle/ from page 2

ily have been speaking of ours when he recognized, "Rural papers bring community members together for special moments. It's where we see when we have a new birth. It's where we see when we lose a fellow citizen. It's when we celebrate with others about a 50th wedding anniversary. It's the joys of graduation and holiday celebrations. It's about ribbon cuttings. It's the pain of funeral services and natural disasters, and really everything in between." They really do. So, what are we going to do about this, Lincoln? Are we going to allow our paper to go the way of the 2,000 other hometown publications whose obituaries are read in the death of their papers? Or are we going to rally as a small but unified community from all sides of the political aisle in support of the lost art that is local journalism? "Newspaper for sale" - that's how it started in Plainville, with a population of 1,746. Our population in Lincoln is estimated to be hovering somewhere around 1,200. As of the last census in 2020 it was 1,171. We are not large, but we are mighty in spirit. When we come together as a community and care about each other, we can beat the odds. I mean just look at the Leopards! They did it. We supported them all the way, as they truly deserved every bit of our support. So does our local

paper. Our paper supports the schools, the students, and athletes, not just in Lincoln, but in all the surrounding communities as well. Now it is time to show up for the local people and newspaper who have supported your families, celebrated your anniversaries, published your accomplishments, challenged some of your perspectives, and invited civil discourse while fostering civic debate while also, simultaneously, objectively reporting on it. Sometimes, we don't know what we have until it's gone. Don't let that happen here, Lincoln. In an interview for PBS, Charles Sennott once again, minced no words in addressing the looming crisis at hand. "The crisis in journalism in America has become a real crisis for our democracy." He spoke on the value of having local journalists as watchdogs who keep their towns and cities from rampant corruption just by their mere presence. In stating that there have been a staggering number of reporting jobs lost (30,000 in ten years), he identified the risk left in the seismic absence of those reporters saying there is, "no one watching 'the store' from small towns to medium sized cities." He added too, that hometown papers allow for a "shared set of facts on a local level" and "civic debate on a local level" both of which ben-

efit the communities they affect in countless and far-reaching ways. His solution? "The best way to confront this crisis is going to be to have real human beings doing real reporting and answering that need." Amen. Chuck Plunkett, former editorial page editor of The Denver Post, was also interviewed by PBS. When asked by the host, "What's not getting covered? What are we missing?" His answers aligned with the perspective proffered by, Charles Sennott. He said, "When I first started at The Post in 2003, there were 300 journalists. And now there are 70." Which essentially means, "fewer reporters covering city hall, covering state house, cops, business." Eliminating ambiguity, Plunkett asserted, "Studies have shown that when there are fewer reporters in communities, corruption inevitably starts to grow, taxes start to go up, voter participation starts to drop..." Maybe those things are not what we are too terribly concerned about in our little town. But maybe we ought to be. We are all fallible humans after all. Corruption does not discriminate between small towns and big cities like Denver, Cleveland, or New York. It is a human temptation to take a cookie from the jar when no one is looking no matter which counter or county the jar is set upon.

Local journalism and therefore, local newspaper is a very valuable asset to any community for so many reasons. And even with all the big and very big crises in the world today, there is no need for yet one more casualty to top the list of local newspapers now shut down due to lack of sustainability and support from the communities they so dutifully serve. What can we do, you ask? How can we make a difference, you say? I'm so very glad you asked. Get involved again. Re-engage with your local newspaper. Don't let the enormity and overwhelming amount of sensational and world-wide crises desensitize you to the daily moments and opportunities to appreciate and enjoy what you have, while you still have it to appreciate, and enjoy. This paper may be here for months or years to come. Dale Worley, CEO of JLS Newsgroup and present owner of The Lincoln Sentinel-Republican, shared, "Newspaper and local media are not planning in terms of years. They're doing it in terms of months. Which means our long-term viability is questionable. When I got in this business decades ago, that was never in question. The newspaper was always going to exist." But now? I don't think anyone should take that for granted at this point. So, if you see the irre-

placeable and priceless value of a local newspaper and appreciate the fine art of local journalism and would like to see this small town and its hometown paper beat the odds, then renew your engagement with this local paper. Don't let it die as a relic of times past along with the thousands of other communities who now have no more local coverage of their kids in sports or their grandparents wedding anniversaries, or a local icon's retirement. Shoutout to our, Betty Loy and her widely acclaimed cinnamon rolls. This is truly one crisis that can be averted. It's really up to you, Lincoln. We have a decision to make as a community. Do we truly appreciate and value the local coverage we are so blessed to still have here in our town? And more to the point. As the downward trend in local journalism is merely reflective of a broader trend in shifting cultural values and societal norms... Are we going to let the world outside of us continue to strip our communities of all that once defined and mattered to us? What are our values? And what do we hold dear? In a world where all that once was ablaze with passionate and fiery pursuit of truth and justice is now for sale, what do we still value? And what does it say about us if we no longer value these things at all?

DONATE IN FEBRUARY!



Thanks to the continued generosity of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, donations up to \$50,000 made to the Post Rock Community Action Fund during the month of February will be matched 200%.



FOR EXAMPLE:
 \$10 becomes \$30
 \$100 becomes \$300
 \$1,000 becomes \$3,000

Help us reach our \$100,000 goal in 2026!

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What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Baskets on bottom 2. Teapot on second left shelf 3. Different basket on top center 4. Labels are missing on white bags

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1813: Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" is first published in the UK.

1878: "Yale Daily News" becomes the first independent daily college newspaper in the United States.

1915: An act of Congress creates the United States Coast Guard.

Health FACT:



Getting organized can help reduce this, which is good for personal health.

Answer: Stress

NEW WORD

NEAT

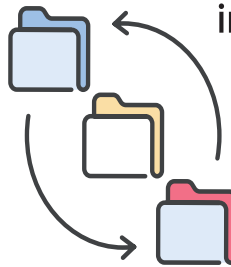
arranged in a tidy way

How they say that in...

- English:** Clutter
- Spanish:** Desorden
- Italian:** Disordine
- French:** Désordre
- German:** Unordnung

Did You Know?

Creating a folder structure with logical names and using consistent names for individual files can help organize computer content.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Closet shelves

Feel The Difference



Salina Surgical Hospital

Women's Health • Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery • Gastroenterology
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Salina Surgical Hospital is PROUD to be partially owned by local community involved physicians.

NPL TOURNAMENT WEEK 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Inclément weather pushes tournament to Saturday, Jan. 31.



JEREMIAH MILLER (#2) LINCOLN, PARKER GRAVES (#23) & JOEY STIRN (#1) TESCOTT



HADLEY WIEBKE (#25) LINCOLN



CARTER JOHNSON (#10) SYLVAN-LUCAS



EASTON GOOD (#0) LINCOLN, CHARLIE PHELPS (#44) & PARKER GRAVES (#23) TESCOTT



HARLEE NELSON (#20) & MOLLY HELLER (#21) SYLVAN-LUCAS



JAYDEN MEITLER (#15) SYLVAN-LUCAS



BEN BELL (#20) LINCOLN, BRODY THOMPSON (#5) TESCOTT



ALYSSA LOPEZ (#3) LINCOLN

(Photo by Becky Rathbun and Lori Spear)

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 29, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, December 29, 2025. Chairman 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: Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, Felicia Strahm, Truette McQueen, and Shawn Esterl.

Correspondence: a letter from KAC with an invoice for the 2026 annual dues; a Christmas card and newsletter from the North Central Regional Planning Commission; calendars from Murphy tractor; and two rulings from the Board of Tax Appeals for county-owned properties.

Debora Smith gave an update on the Hospital Board of Trustees' monthly meeting.

Administrators' Report: will be meeting with Economic Development and a data mining company about resources available in Lincoln County; provided an update on the Health Department and communications with the hospital; will attend a meeting with Terry Broberg and the Transportation Bus Director concerning a request to provide rides for commodity pickup; Human Resources is setting up a committee from the courthouse to conduct second interviews for the custodian position; will meet with Senator Bowers and Sheriff Florence on January 28 in Topeka for Local Government Day concerning the legislative requirements to place a sales tax question on the ballot.

Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran was present to review evaluations for full-time and part-time employees. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS staff evaluations 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, Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 9:02 a.m. Time out: 9:17 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:17 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS staff evaluations 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, Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 9:18 a.m. Time out: 9:33 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:33 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS staff evaluations 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, Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 9:38 a.m. Time out: 9:53 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:53 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS staff evaluations 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, Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 9:54 a.m. Time out: 10:04 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:04 a.m. with no action taken.

County Appraiser Truette McQueen was present to review department evaluations. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing Appraiser's office evaluations, 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, Adam Robertson, Truette McQueen, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:06 a.m. Time out: 10:21 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:21 a.m. with no action taken. McQueen inquired about contacting part-time employees to assist with data entry. The board approved contingent on their hours staying under the required 1,000 hours.

Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm requested approval to employ Mason Florence. Debora Smith moved to employ Mason Florence as a part-

time EMT, effective December 25, at grade 13, step 5, \$14.04 per hour, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing County Administrator evaluation, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:30 a.m. Time out: 10:45 a.m. with no action taken.

The chairman adjourned the meeting to regular session at 10:45 a.m. with no action taken.

Human Resource Officer Felicia provided an update on open job positions.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for five minutes for the purpose of discussing Clerk's office evaluations, 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 board, Adam Robertson, Dawn Harlow, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:53 a.m. Time out: 10:58 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:58 a.m. with no action taken.

The board discussed highway department activities and complaints received by constituents.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing transportation bus staffing concerns 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, Adam Robertson, Dawn Harlow, and Felicia Strahm, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 11:15 a.m. Time out: 11:30 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:30 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing transportation bus staffing concerns 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, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm, and Dawn Harlow, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 11:30 a.m. Time out: 11:40 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:40 a.m. with no action taken.

Administrators' Report continued: provided a progress update on the bridge replacement project OS 107; has discussed the courthouse roof with two roofing companies; the Highway Department will pick up the landfill backhoe until the board can decide what to do moving forward; and discussed the Kansas Department of Labor facility inspection remedies.

Sanitarian Shawn Esterl inquired whether the KDHE hazardous waste letter had been resolved. Esterl will meet with Robertson to determine if he can provide further assistance.

Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the December 22nd meeting, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatement 2025-52, in the amount of \$70.36, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

December 31, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. Chairman 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: Adam Robertson and Felicia Strahm.

Debora Smith moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$248,597.66, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$566,157.57, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried.

Commissioner Meitler inquired about how the departments were handling Noxious Weed wages paid to employees working for the Highway Department. The group discussed options. Human Resource Officer Strahm will meet with the employee to determine how they are recording time and to determine the best method for adequately allocating costs to each department.

Chairman Smith convened the scheduled budget hearing at 9:00 a.m. to hear and answer objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of budgeted funds. The chairman

adjourned the budget hearing at 9:30 a.m. and convened the meeting to regular session. Debora Smith moved to approve the 2025 Lincoln County amended budget, amending the General Fund, Health Fund, and Hunter Rural Fire District budgets, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-22, transferring \$265,000 from the Lincoln County General Fund to the Lincoln County Capital Improvement Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-23, transferring \$100,000 from the Lincoln County General Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund, allocating \$60,000 for use by the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-24, transferring \$50,000 from the Lincoln County Health Fund to the Lincoln County Health Capital Outlay Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-25, transferring \$20,000 from the Noxious Weed Fund to the Noxious Weed Capital Outlay Fund, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-26, transferring \$3,300 from the General Fund to the Transportation Bus Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-27, transferring \$16,500 from the Barnard Rural Fire Operating Fund to the Barnard Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund; \$18,000 from the Beverly Rural Fire Operating Fund to the Beverly Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund; \$3,000 from the First Rural Fire Operating Fund to the First Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund; \$50,000 from the Hunter Rural Fire Operating Fund to the Hunter Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund; and \$8,500 from the Sylvan Grove Rural Fire Operating Fund to the Sylvan Grove Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-28,

transferring \$33,769.82 from the Road Fund to the Special Highway Improvement Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-29, transferring \$100,000 from the Road Fund to the Special Road Improvement Fund, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-30, transferring \$140,246 from the Road Fund to the Special Machinery Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-31, transferring \$100,000 from the Road Fund to the Special Highway Improvement Fund, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Clerk Harlow inquired whether the board would like to distribute 100% of the allocation to the Lincoln and Sylvan Grove senior centers and the Council on Aging in January or place the three entities on the distribution schedule with all other tax appropriations. The board determined that the entities should be placed on the distribution schedule, with the allocation sent in January being subject to the matching percentage of tax collected for the 1st half distribution, and that the remaining amount will be made available in May after the 2nd half distribution is made.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 5, 2026.

January 5, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, January 5, 2026. Chairman 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: Adam Robertson, Mary Ann Stertz, and Dustin Florence.

Correspondence: a letter from the Kansas Pipeline Association; an email from Fire Chief Marc Lovin concerning volunteer firefighter pay; and an email from the Attorney Assist regarding the information provided by Marc Lovin.

County Treasurer Mary Ann Stertz presented the total ad valorem tax collected. Stertz presented three annual resolutions for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2026-03, designating the following Lincoln County banks as depositories of all money for Lincoln County, Kansas, for the year 2026: The Bank of Tescott - Lincoln, Citizens State Bank & Trust - Lincoln, Bennington State Bank - Sylvan Grove, Farmway Credit Union - Lincoln, Wilson State Bank - Beverly, and State Municipal Investment Pool-State of Kansas depositories, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2026-02, authorizing the County Treasurer to develop and implement a cash

management and investment program for the handling of money in the custody of Lincoln County, Kansas, for the year 2026, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2026-01, allowing the County Treasurer to invest idle funds as seen feasible in Lincoln County banks or investments, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

County Administrator Adam Robertson updated the board on Public Works and Health Department activities, and provided an update on the Kansas Department of Labor's findings response.

Sheriff Dustin Florence related that he had signed the contract to purchase the new fingerprint machine, with payment required at the time of ordering. Florence reported that the bid to encrypt the 800 radios exceeded \$52,000 and that the proposal might need to be updated. A portion of the cost could be drawn from the 911 fund, and he was checking the allowed uses of fee-generated funds. Florence provided a letter from the FBI and information received from the KBI regarding the need for encryption and explained the impact on the department if the radios aren't encrypted. The board approved the purchase of the fingerprint machine and the remaining cost of radio encryption from the capital equipment reserve fund after all available resources are used, and approved payment at month for the fingerprint machine.

The board discussed open positions and requested that Administrator Robertson, with Human Resources, facilitate job interviews for applicants for the Health/Nurse Administrator position. Robertson provided a letter from KDOT approving the submission of underreported expenses from July to November 2025 and the actions KDOT will take to ensure proper staff training and reporting moving forward. Robertson provided information on meetings attended and upcoming meetings scheduled. Commissioner Hart and Robertson will travel to view the equipment used at the McPherson County solid waste disposal facility.

The board discussed the amount of interest accrued in the Windpower Economic Benefit Fund interest account and whether the bylaws should be changed to make revenue available for county projects that would require a property tax increase to fund. The board discussed whether it would be more beneficial to the committee to limit funding annually, which would require bylaw changes, or to have the County apply for funds toward specific projects. Members agreed that the interest funds given to the committee should be limited. Commissioner Smith volunteered to research the steps needed to align with the board's goals.

The board discussed what they would like to request of the State Legislature regarding the sales tax percentage to present to voters and the proposed uses. The board reviewed cash flow scenarios provided by Piper Sandler & Co. The board identified that they would like to request a one percent sales tax, identified projects they would like to see funded by the sales tax, and agreed that they did not want the sales tax to sunset. The tax would provide property tax relief by financing infrastructure projects, with proceeds available for use toward all county-owned buildings and future road and bridge projects and improvements. The bonding attorney will be contacted to assist with drafting a legislative bill to be introduced by local legislators during the current session.

Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the December 29th and December 31st meetings, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026.

January 9, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, January 9, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. with Vice-Chairman Leon Hart and Member Kenny Meitler present. Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Machado acted as recording secretary.

Purpose: the purpose of the special meeting is to conduct interviews for the Health Nurse/Administrator position.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson and Felicia Strahm.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of reviewing applications for the County Health Department Administrator, 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, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 12:35 p.m. Time out: 12:50 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:50 p.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into ex-

Commission/ from page 9

ecutive session for sixty minutes, for the purpose of conducting an interview for the Health Nurse/Administrator position, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel with the board, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm and Applicant #1 present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 12:56 p.m. Time out: 1:56 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:56 p.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for sixty minutes, for the purpose of conducting an interview for the Health Nurse/Administrator position, 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, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm and Applicant #2 present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 2:25 p.m. Time out: 3:25 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 3:25 p.m. with no action taken.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2025.

January 12, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, January 12, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Leon Hart and Member Kenny Meitler present. Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Machado was in attendance as recording secretary.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson, Jeff White, Sherry Pickering, Judy Coats, Felicia Strahm, and Truette McQueen.

Correspondence: tax abatements; and an electronic signature agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The board approved the chairman to sign the electronic signature agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatements in the amount of \$388.04, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Administrators' Report: Robertson provided information received during the tour with Commissioner Hart at the McPherson solid waste facility; met with Tony Lamia, Slechta Enterprises, regarding their desire to stop operating the recycling center in March.

Jeff White, Beverly Rural Fire Department, provided information on the department's plan to purchase a Ford F550 and requested approval to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for a portion of the cost with Wilson State Bank; the remaining cost will be paid from the department's special equipment fund. The board approved the request. White provided an update on work done on the re-

peater tower.

Health Department employees Judy Coats and Sherry Pickering provided an update on department activities, including the following: WIC nutritionist is making a schedule and the department might need two WIC days this month; WIC affidavits were due to Republic County, and they are not sure how to complete; the State sent the WIC check to Lincoln County and funds will need distributed to other counties, with the assistance of Republic County; the monthly immunization and vaccine reports have been completed and submitted to the State; a nurse from the hospital will complete the January lab draws, an RN can review the results and assist with sharing them with clients; the prices of lab draws has increased and staff will get assistance with setting up the new fee structure in Patagonia; Saline County will be taking over the BAM class and will be requesting a grant for 2027 to assist Lincoln County. Robertson will contact Delisa's Medical Billing to determine the status of their assistance with the recertification process; will ask IT to forward all emails to his email; and bills will be submitted to the Clerk's Office for coding in the interim.

Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm presented longevity payroll for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to approve the longevity payroll run in the amount of \$15,265.27, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Strahm inquired about which department should pay for the advertisement for the public works director. The board approved splitting the cost between all three departments. Strahm presented the 2026 commission meeting calendar. Debora Smith moved to approve the calendar as presented, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Strahm presented the updated pay scales per pay grade, which include the 35-cent cost-of-

living adjustment for all steps. Debora Smith moved to approve the new pay and grade scales, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Strahm presented the annual pay resolution for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2026-04, setting employee and elected official pay, effective December 26, 2025, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for five minutes for the purpose of discussing custodian applications, 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, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:04 a.m.

Time out: 10:09 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:09 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing public works applications pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelect-

ed personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 10:10 a.m. Time out: 10:25 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:25 a.m. with no action taken.

County Appraiser Truette McQueen requested approval to reemploy Rhonda Wright as a temporary part-time employee to assist with data entry. Debora Smith moved to employ Rhonda Wright as a temporary part-time employee to complete data entry, Grade 15 Step 19, \$19.18 per hour, effective January 12, 2026, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing health department applicants, 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, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:47 a.m. Time out: 10:57 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:57 a.m. with no action taken.

The board requested that County Attorney Scott Wright attend the next meeting. Commissioner Smith will make contact with him.

Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the January 5th and the January 9th meetings, seconded by Leon Hart. Motioned carried.

Commissioner Smith discussed the WEB fund bylaws and provided information from the parties who drafted the original document, stating that it was always the board's intent that the county come first. Due to higher interest yields, the board has previously discussed modifying the bylaws to provide taxpayer relief by funding county projects with a portion of the revenues. Commissioner Smith stated that to move forward with changing how interest funds are distributed, it was recommended that the board amend the bylaws to specify how interest earned would be disbursed, in alignment with the board's goals. Commissioner Smith provided a draft of the bylaws for the board's review. The board discussed the areas they would like the interest directed toward. The board approved Smith to modify and send the bylaws to the WEB committee and the County Attorney for approval.

The board reviewed and approved the recommended KWORCC policies with a few changes.

Administrators' Report continued: Ryan Roofing will be looking at the courthouse roof; has a meeting to review the penetration test results; will meet with the City of Lincoln regarding data centers; grant cycles for the Health Department will be starting soon, and will be reaching out for assistance on starting the process; highway department employees moved office furniture in

the district court offices; proof of modifications for all citations were submitted and approved by Kansas Department of Labor; will met with a Brett Wilkinson, Kirkham Michael to go over contracts and projects; there will be a jail committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 19th, in the courthouse meeting room. All board members indicated they plan to attend the jail committee meeting. Chairman Smith requested that notice be given of a potential meeting.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

January 15, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Thursday, January 15, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Leon Hart and Member Kenny Meitler present. Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Machado acted as recording secretary.

Purpose: The purpose of the special meeting is to conduct interviews for the Public Works Director position and discuss open positions.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm, and Jeffery Boddiger.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of reviewing applications for the Public Works Director, 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, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 9:04 a.m. Time out: 9:14 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:14 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for sixty minutes, for the purpose of conducting an interview for the Public Works Director position, 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, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm and Applicant #1 present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 9:30 a.m. Time out: 10:30 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:30 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes, for the purpose of conducting an interview for the Public Works Director position, 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, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm and Applicant #1 present, seconded by Leon Hart. 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.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for sixty minutes, for the purpose of conducting an interview for the Public Works Director position, 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, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm and Applicant #2 present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:55 a.m. Time out: 11:55 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:55 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes, for the purpose of conducting an interview for the Public Works Director position, 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, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm and Applicant #2 present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 11:55 a.m. Time out: 12:05 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:05 p.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for sixty minutes, for the purpose of conducting an interview for the Public Works Director position, 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, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm and Applicant #3 present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 12:22 p.m. Time out: 1:22 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:22 p.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for twenty minutes, for the purpose of discussing open positions within the County 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, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 1:25 p.m. Time out: 1:45 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:45 p.m. with no action taken. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes, for the purpose of discussing open positions within the County 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, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 1:25 p.m. Time out: 1:45 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:45 p.m. with no action taken. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes, for the purpose of discussing open positions within the County 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, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 1:45 p.m. Time out: 1:55 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:55 p.m. with no action taken.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2025.

KANSAS! Magazine releases second kids' edition for students across the state

TOPEKA — Building on the success of its inaugural issue, KANSAS! magazine, an award-winning subscription publication produced by Kansas Tourism, is proud to announce the release of its second annual edition of KANSAS! Kids — a magazine created specifically for Kansas students in fourth through sixth grade.

Designed to spark curiosity and encourage young Kansans to see their state in new ways, KANSAS! Kids brings learning to life through engaging stories, vivid photography and kid-friendly exploration of Kansas history, geography, people and places.

"Inspiring passion and love for Kansas starts at a young age — it certainly did for me, and that love has lasted all my life. It matters that we educate and show young Kansans all the amazing opportunities and experiences that are available to them right

here at home," Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "The KANSAS! Kids magazine displays what life in the Sunflower State looks like — and supports our goal of having more young people choose to keep Kansas their home as they grow and pursue their dreams."

In the newest edition, students will learn about the trailblazing spirit of Amelia Earhart, take a behind-the-scenes look at the daily life on McCarty's Dairy Farm — and get weird and wacky with Kansas' larger-than-life roadside attractions. Readers will also explore the state's richly diverse geography — from prairies and plains to rivers, hills and hidden wonders — and many other stories that make Kansas so unique.

"Kansas has incredible stories, and young Kansans deserve to see themselves reflected in those

stories," Kansas Tourism Director Bridgette Jobe said. "The magazine is designed to plant seeds of curiosity about Kansas land, history and significant figures who also call this state home."

As with the first edition, all fourth- through sixth-grade students across Kansas — along with subscribers to the magazine — will receive a complimentary copy of the second edition of KANSAS! Kids magazine. The release is timed to support classroom learning and statewide celebrations for Kansas Day on January 29.

Additional copies of KANSAS! Kids can be ordered at <https://www.travelks.com/kansas-magazine/about-kansas/kansas-kids/>. To subscribe to KANSAS! magazine, visit the webpage at <https://www.travelks.com/kansas-magazine/>, where print and digital subscriptions are available year-

round — and copies of each issue can be found on newsstands throughout the state.

About the Kansas Department of Commerce:

As the state's lead economic development agency, the Kansas Department of Commerce strives to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve prosperity in Kansas. Commerce accomplishes its mission by developing relationships with corporations, site location consultants and stakeholders in Kansas, the nation and world. Our strong partnerships allow us to help create an environment for existing Kansas businesses to grow and foster an innovative, competitive landscape for new businesses. Through Commerce's project successes, Kansas was awarded Area Development Magazine's prestigious Gold Shovel award in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, and was awarded the

2021 and 2022 Governor's Cup by Site Selection Magazine.

About Kansas Tourism:

The mission of Kansas Tourism is to inspire travel to and throughout Kansas to maximize the positive impacts that tourism has on our state and local communities. Kansas Tourism works hand in hand with other Commerce community programs to elevate and promote Kansas as a tourist destination. Kansas Tourism oversees all tourism marketing and PR for the state, produces travel publications and advertising, manages state Travel Information Centers, manages both the Kansas By-ways program and the Kansas Agritourism program, approves tourist signage applications, produces the KANSAS! Magazine, and provides financial and educational support to the tourism industry in Kansas through grants, education and support.



Pictured: L to R: Shannon DePoy, Outpatient Coordinator; Mary Prochaska, RN, Program Director; Audrey Lindenmeyer, PMC Regional Director and Sara Grout, LCSW. (courtesy photo)

Mitchell County Hospital Health System's Senior Life Enrichment Program receives 2025 Program Finalist of the Year Award

Mitchell County Hospital Health System's Senior Life Enrichment has been named the 2025 Program Finalist of the Year by PMC, which manages the program. MCHHS's program supports the unique needs of individuals, typically 65 and older, experiencing symptoms of depression, anxiety, grief and other mental health challenges that are often associated with aging. The Senior Life Enrichment Program team is composed of a board-certified psychiatrist, a nurse practitioner, a licensed therapist, a registered nurse, and other highly trained professionals dedicated to providing each patient with the highest quality, individualized care.

PMC partners with more than 250 hospitals and health systems across the country to provide behavioral healthcare services. Top-performing employees and Senior Life Solutions programs are recognized annually based on their excellence in demonstrating PMC's values of care, compliance, and community. Award recipients were chosen for providing outstanding patient care, excellent comprehension and execution of compliance regulations, and strong community engagement. "We are incredibly proud of our Senior Life Enrichment team for being named a 2025 Program Finalist of the Year by PMC," said

Nicki Cleveland, Chief Nursing Officer. "This recognition reflects the compassion, dedication, and expertise our staff brings to supporting older adults facing mental health challenges. Their commitment to individualized, high-quality care not only embodies our mission, but makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our patients and the community we serve." Families, friends, community members, physicians, self-referrals, or other health professionals can refer people to the Senior Life Enrichment program. For more information, education, or if you would like to discuss support, please call 785-534-1536.

Christ Cathedral announces regional Lenten Art Exhibit artists and theme

Christ Cathedral in Salina announces the theme and featured artists for its annual Lenten Art Exhibit that opens in early February.

First launched in 2023-24, the cathedral's annual Lenten Art Exhibit encourages art lovers to experience original work centered around a faith-inspired theme. Now in its third year, the theme for this year's exhibit is "Holiness In Our Midst," inviting each artist to interpret and depict holiness as they see it in history or in everyday life.

The 12 featured artists, listed alpha by last name, come from eight Kansas communities:

- Mary Binford-Miller, oil, El Dorado
- Cary Brinegar, oil, Salina
- Dale Cole, photography, Salina
- Terri Horner, sculpture, Great Bend
- John Keeling, watercolor, Kansas City
- Marcia Kenley, pastel, Overland Park
- Charlotte Martin, pastel/charcoal/acrylic, Wichita
- Jennifer Schermerhorn, fiber art, Wamego
- DeAnna Skedel, eco print with collage, Kansas City
- Barbara Waterman-Peters, oil, Topeka
- Rodney Wood, oil, Wichita
- Ernest Vincent Wood III, oil, Wichita

"Holiness In Our Midst" runs Friday, February 6 through Tuesday, March 31, 2026, with viewing by advance reservation only, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., plus Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Docents will be available to share information and the exhibit's catalog. The exhibit also can be viewed during 10 a.m. Sunday services at Christ Cathedral, 138 S. Eighth Street in downtown Salina. The exhibit will be open for Salina's February 6 and March 6 First Friday Art Walks. The show is free admission.

For more information about "Holiness In Our Midst" or to reserve a tour time for your group, contact Christ Cathedral at christcathedral@christcathedralsalina.org, call 785-827-4440 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/christcathedralsalina/> or [christcathedralsalina.org](https://www.facebook.com/christcathedralsalina/). Previous Lenten Art Exhibit art-show themes were "Artists' Way Of the Cross" in 2024 and "Miracles of Christ" in 2025.

Christ Cathedral is "the church in the heart of the city, with a heart for the city." Established in 1906, the Cathedral is the largest congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas that stretches from Salina west to the Colorado border. The Cathedral houses a Montessori School, leads the Welcome Table daily lunch program held at Salina Grace, and offers Bible studies, Book Club, musical outreach and more. To schedule a time to chat with Dean Shay Craig, call 785-827-4440.

Kansas Press Association announces winners of first-ever Best of Kansas Holiday Contest

TOPEKA, Kan. — The magic of the holiday season in Kansas shone bright as the Kansas Press Association and Kansas Newspapers proudly announced the winners of the first-ever Best of Kansas Holiday Contest, a statewide celebration recognizing the best seasonal events, attractions and traditions across the Sunflower State.

From pumpkin patches and haunted hayrides to Christmas concerts, holiday markets and dazzling light displays, Kansas were invited to nominate and vote for their favorite fall and holiday experiences. Nominations were accepted through Oct. 17, 2025, followed by public voting from Oct. 27 through Dec. 31, 2025. Entries and votes poured in from communities across Kansas.

"We were extremely pleased with both the number of nominations and the number of votes received in this inaugural contest," said Amber Jackson, contest coordinator for the Kansas Press Association. "The response clearly shows how much Kansans value their local traditions and the events that bring their communities together during the holiday season."

While only a portion of nominated events could be named winners, the Kansas Press Association emphasized that the contest showcased an impressive variety of experiences across the state. Full results and additional information can be found at extra.ljworld.com/Best-of-Kansas.

The Best of Kansas Holiday Contest marks the first holiday-focused edition, with additional Best of Kansas contests planned in the future.

2025 Best of Kansas Holiday Contest winners

Christmas concert / holiday performance
First place: 1st Infantry Division Band Holiday Concert @ C.L. Hoover Opera House

Second place: Happy Holidays from the Little Apple
Third place: Salina Symphony Christmas Festival

Christmas parade
First place: Holiday Hullabaloo at Leonardville Light Up 66449
Second place: Luminary Walk at the Overland Park Arboretum

Holiday fireworks / tree lighting ceremony
First place: WaKeeney — Christmas City of the High Plains
Second place: Holiday Hullabaloo Leonardville Light Up 66449
Third place: Festival of Lights at Blue Earth Plaza in Manhattan

Holiday light tour / drive-thru experience
First place: Chautauqua Isle of Lights
Second place: Cowtown Christmas Light Showdown
Third place: Holiday Hullabaloo at Leonardville Light Up 66449

Holiday market / craft fair
First place: Beloit Holiday Fair
Second place: Tree Lighting Festival — WaKeeney
Third place: Kansas Holiday Market and Food Truck Festival at the Flint Hills Discovery Center

Holiday train ride
First place: Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad — Cowtown Santa Express
Second place: Polar Express, Ellis
Third place: Snowglobe Express, Baldwin

Ice skating rink / winter activity
First place: Manhattan KS Ice Skating Rink @ City Park
Second place (tie): Ice Skating at Chicken N Pickle, Overland Park

Second place (tie): Kansas City Ice Center and Pavilion
New Year's Eve celebration
First place: Family New Year's Eve at the Flint Hills Discovery Center
Second place: Aggieville Little Apple Drop — Manhattan, Kan.

Nutcracker performance / holiday show
First place: Prairie Nutcracker at Hutchinson's Historic Fox Theatre
Second place: BTC Athletics & Dance, "Twas the Night Before Christmas"
Third place: Salina Symphony Christmas Festival

Santa visit / Santa's village
First place: Christmas on the Bricks, Fort Scott
Second place: Holiday Hullabaloo Leonardville Pride
Third place: Spud's Emporium Christmas Village, Scott City

Corn maze
First place: Infinity Maze
Second place: Pumpkin Hollow at Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead
Third place: Kansas Maze, Buhler

Fall farm experience
First place: Pa's Pumpkin Patch
Second place: Pumpkin Hollow at Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead
Third place: Grinter's Sunflower Farm

Fall food festival
First place: Glen Elder Chili Cook-off
Second place: Oktoberfest Hays
Third place: Wellington Fall Festival Chili Cook-off

Haunted hayride
First place: Ghostly Party at Glen Elder State Park
Second place: Night of the Living Farmstead at Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead

Third place: Field of Screams, Maize

Oktoberfest celebration
First place: Oktoberfest Hays
Second place: Junction City Oktoberfest
Third place: Neewollah Festival, Independence

Pumpkin patch
First place: Cottage Lane Pumpkin Patch
Second place: Pa's Pumpkin Patch
Third place: Pumpkin Hollow at Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead

Scarecrow festival / display
First place: Wellington Scarecrow Light Pole Decorating Contest
Second place: Downtown Scarecrow Light Pole Decorating Contest, Winfield
Third place: Columbus Day, Columbus

Trick-or-treat / trunk-or-treat event
First place: Wellington Trick or Treat Down the Street
Second place: Trick or Treat on the Bricks
Third place: Witches Night Out, Augusta

Holiday food festival / bake sale / cookie walk
First place: Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery Holiday Gift Show, Lindsborg
Second place: Handmade Holiday Gift Mart, Smoky Valley Arts, Lindsborg
Third place: Candlelight Charm, Council Grove

Holiday tradition in Kansas
First place: Christmas at the Marshall-Yohe House
Second place: Christmas Tree Lane, Abilene
Third place: "Christmas Through the Ages" Tree Display

Overall holiday town
First place: Lindsborg — Little

Sweden USA
Second place: Abilene
Third place: Hays

Volunteer / charity event for the holidays
First place: Festival of Trees, Hays
Second place: Holiday Food Boxes, Lindsborg
Third place (tie): Operation Holiday, Wellington
Third place (tie): Salina Rescue Mission

Community Thanksgiving dinner / event
First place: Salina Salvation Army Community Dinner
Second place: 57th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Topeka
Third place: St. Lutheran Thanksgiving Dinner, Pittsburg

Harvest festival
First place: Harvest Home Festival, Silver Lake
Second place: Scammon Kansas Fall Festival
Turkey trot / Thanksgiving run
First place: 50th Annual Turkey Trot, Wichita
Second place: Pittsburg Turkey Trot 5K
Third place: Gobbler Grind Marathon, Overland Park

Kansas Press Association was organized in 1863 to serve, improve and promote the newspaper industry and to protect the rights of a free press. Today, KPA continues its efforts by providing member publications with marketing and educational services, legal and technology hotlines, legislative representation and a forum for the exchange of ideas. The association hosts conventions, conferences and seminars for the newspaper industry, and serves as a central source of industry information. Kansas Press represents more than 150 member publications, both print and online, throughout the state.

The Online Restaurant Academy is back

This 6-week online program helps aspiring and early-stage restaurant and food truck owners learn the essentials to start or accelerate their food business, with flexible digital modules and live coaching support. Please share with any entrepreneurs in your community that could benefit from this program.

Foodpreneur's Boot Camp

6-week virtual, statewide, restaurant and food truck start-up program

When: February 9th - March 23rd

Weekly Zoom meetings

Wednesday at 12pm or Thursdays at 11am

Early bird cost: \$75

Cost after 1/25/26: \$99

Register: <https://www.onlinerestaurantacademy.com/offers/0sVZzfRf/checkout>