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THE HILL CITY TIMES

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The Official City & County Newspaper for Hill City, Graham County, KS



Rachel's Challenge held January 20th at HCJSHS.

Rachel's Challenge: Create through Kindness Suicide, School Violence & Bullying Prevention Program

At Rachel's Challenge, we create change. We know that hope is the antidote to fear. We know that kindness is contagious, that compassion connects us, that empathy can end isolation. We teach these positive tools and skills to address the causes of school violence and self-harm directly at the source: we don't treat the symptoms; we cure the disease.

Tell and show

Stories are powerful. We tell the story of Rachel Scott, the first victim of the Columbine school shootings. Rachel was just an ordinary teenager in many ways; but she believed that kindness could change the world. She wrote about it, talked about it – and acted on it. After her death, stories emerged of the little things Rachel had done that had made a big difference in the lives of those around her.

Starting with her example, we show what kindness looks like; what it feels like. We teach simple and easy ways to reach out and connect to each other emotionally with our school violence prevention programs. We model positive behavior that is compassionate and empathetic. The results are life-changing.

Because when we can see it, we can create it. It's amazing how far a little kindness can go.

A Day for Change

We know that teachers, parents and leaders are stretched thin. We've designed our student-led program for a minimum level of effort from faculty, with maximum support and flexibility. With both digital and live options that work separately or together, we adapt to your needs – while respecting your resources.

A Rachel's Challenge program is the simplest, most powerful thing you can do for your community. Our signature event can happen in just one day.

A Real Solution & Why it Works

By modeling a positive way to interact, we invite people – students, teachers, parents, everyone – to see each other differently. To see themselves differently. We show them the power they have inside, to ease the struggles that others feel, even as they rise above their own.

And something astounding happens: people get excited. They can't wait to flex their new kindness attitudes. It turns out that many of us are hungry for connection, searching for hope, and waiting for permission to be vulnerable and reach out. We say: permission granted. The change you're hoping for is ready for you to awaken it.

See "Challenge" Pg 4

BOGUE NEWS - LIZ VANLOENEN

We hope the beef and noodle dinner was a big success Jan. 25th at the Bogue Fellowship Hall.

Oh the wind and wind and we had a little, little bit of snow Friday night Jan. 16th.

Coring and Randy Hein of Mulvane, and Bryan VanLoenen visited Liz VanLoenen Sat. morning, Jan 17th.

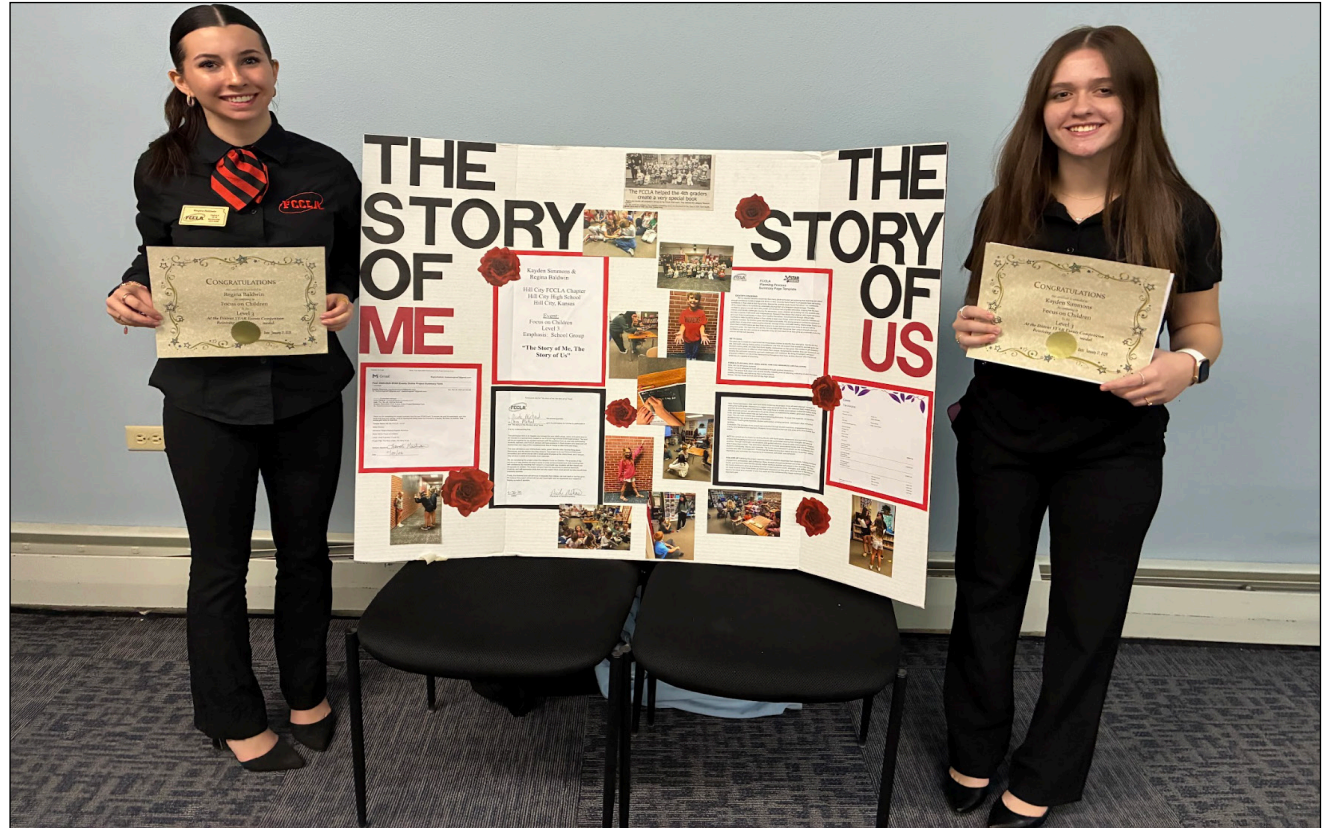
Abby Wetter of Hays was a Sunday morning coffee guest at Liz's home with Bobbie Holsman, Loren Johnson, Corey and Joanne Johnson.

Sunday dinner guests of Corey and Loren Johnson were Shalo Tompkins, Vicki Johnson, Liz VanLoenen, and Joanne Johnson.

Abby Wetter of Hays spent Saturday through Monday with her grandmother, Bobbie Holsman. Landon Hein of Hoxie was a Sunday dinner guest.

The Hospital Auxiliary met Monday, Jan. 19th, at the Guild Hall. They had installation of officers, president is Liz VanLoenen, Vice President is Connie Keith, Secretary is Joanna Johnson, and Treasurer is Carol Riemann. The CEO, Jon Gleason was presented with a check for \$2,000 from the Auxiliary which will be used for a piece of equipment for the wellness center.

The Auto and Art Museum will be closed Jan, Feb, and March.



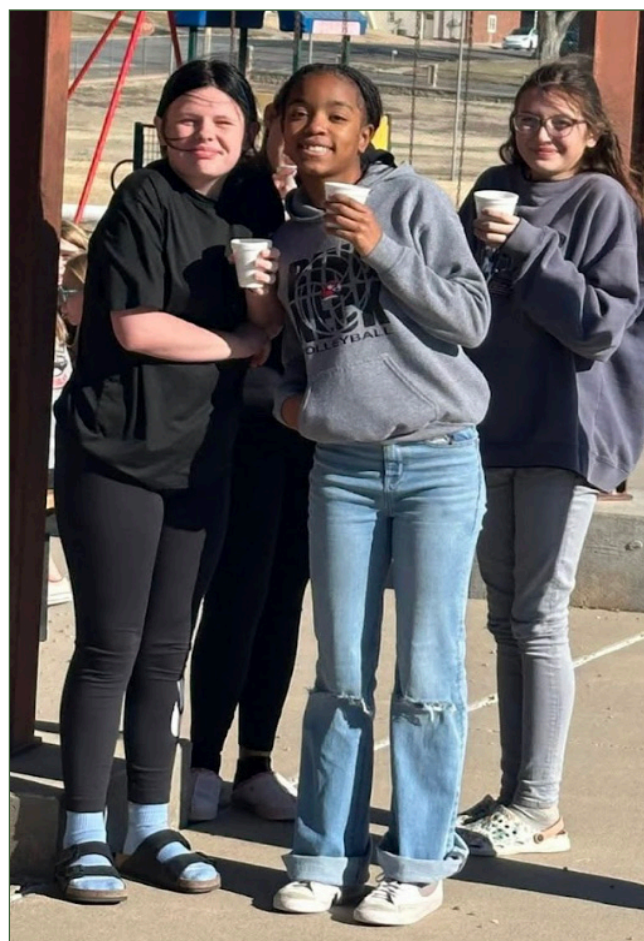
Simmons and Baldwin receive GOLD at district FCCLA STAR event

Hill City seniors Kayden Simmons and Regina Baldwin make the local FCCLA chapter proud. They competed in district FCCLA STAR events on January 21 in Oakley. Their category was "Focus on children" and their title was the story of me, the story of us. They received a gold rating. They will compete at State FCCLA in April. Congratulations and best of luck at your next competition.



MCL Paint-In

HCCHS artists participated in the Mid-Continent League (MCL) Paint-in at Ellis High School on January 21 and collaborated to create this awesome painting. The theme this year was "nature." The MCL Art Paint-In is an annual, collaborative art competition for high school students in Kansas, often held in January. Students from multiple MCL schools gather to create themed artwork within a limited time frame.



Students read 40 million words

Hill City Grade School students celebrated the school wide goal of reading 40 million words with hot cocoa on the playground! Thank you to HC Nutrition for sponsoring this reward and helping them recognize student success!



NEWS & ADVERTISING
DEADLINE:
FRIDAYS @ NOON

Please email news, photos & advertising
information to us at
thehillcitytimes@gmail.com



THE FRONTIER STAGE
 321 East Main Street, Hill City
 facebook.com/frontierstage

Due to changes in bookings that sometimes occur: Please check our website or digital sign display for current movie listings, or call 785-421-3347

THE HOUSEMAID

THRU

To Be Determined!

ANDON SKLENAR,
 ELIZABETH PERKINS

A young woman is relieved by the chance for a fresh start as a maid for a wealthy couple. Soon, she discovers that the family's secrets are far more dangerous than her own.

Jan. 10 TBD | Jan 11 TBD



HILL CITY RINGNECKS
HOME OF THE RINGNECKS JHS/HS ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
 No Scheduled Activities

Thursday, January 29, 2026
 HS Scholars Bowl at Norton 4:00pm
 JH Wrestling at Hill City, 4:00pm

Friday, January 30, 2026
 HS MCL Wrestling at Trego (Boys and Girls) 10:00pm
 HS Basketball at Oakley 4:00pm
 Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting during Seminar

Saturday, January 31, 2026
 JH Wrestling at Hoisington, 9:00am
 Regional Science Olympiad in Hays

Monday, February 2, 2026
 JH Scholars Bowl at Smith Center 4:00pm
 HS Basketball vs. Ness City 4:30pm

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
 HS Wrestling vs. Russell 5:00pm, Senior Night
 HS Basketball at Phillipsburg 4:30pm

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
 Early Release 1:30pm
 Ag Speech Contest
 JH Gifted Chess Trip

Thursday, February 5, 2026
 Regional HS Scholars Bowl at Quinter 4:15pm
 JH Wrestling at Norton, 2:00pm

Friday, February 6, 2026
 HS Wrestling at Onaga (Boys and Girls) 2:00pm
 HS Basketball vs. Atwood 4:30pm
 HS KAY Meeting during Seminar

Saturday, February 7, 2026
 HS Wrestling at Silver Lake (Boys and Girls), 8:00am

Chamber Banquet

Our Chamber banquet earlier this month was a night full of laughs, competition, and great company! Dave Lewis Entertainment brought the energy with one of his most popular game shows (the crowd LOVED it), followed by music bingo that kept the fun going. If you missed it, you missed a good time!

Huge thank you to 2C Farmstore for the delicious meal once again, the Graham County 4-H Shooting Sports team for serving it up, and the Graham County Fair Board for keeping the drinks flowing and spirits high!

Happy Birthday
Elizabeth (Betty) Strigow
90th Birthday Celebration

Help us celebrate her very special milestone with a birthday card shower. She will so enjoy hearing from all her family and friends.



Please send cards to
 616 N. 2nd Avenue, Hill City, KS 67642
 by the second week of February.
 Thank you so much for making this birthday special.

Student Achievements

Colby Community College
 Fall 2025 President's and Vice President's honor roll

The President's Honor Roll includes 135 students with a 4.0 grade point average. Seventy-one students on the Vice President's Honor Roll had GPAs between 3.75 and 3.99.

Presidents honor roll
 Hill City: Ryleigh Garrison, Danielle Heading

Vice Presidents honor roll
 Hill City: Charlie Swain

GRAHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Graham County Library will host a color night on January 29th, any time between 5:45 to 7:00. Any ages - parents and children. They will have fun coloring activities (this first one is about Kansas Day) with a collaborative coloring poster. And snacks.

Hill City Knights of Columbus Hosting
Merril Engel Memorial Lamb Fry
Saturday, January 31
5:30 to 7:00 pm.
CCD Center - Hill City

Mass will be at 5 p.m. that day for those interested

- Lamb Fries
- Fish
- Ham
- Tossed Salad
- Cowboy Beans
- Homemade Potato Chips
- Beverages

There will be 50/50 Cash Raffles Cards and Fellowship

You can purchase tickets at the door!

For more information: Gary Long 785-627-6009, Bruce VanLoenen, Albert Burton, Matt Keith, Brad Keith, Brad Bucl, Fred Keener, Corey Simoneau, Chris Farrell, or Justin Zohner

THE HILL CITY TIMES

Ringneck Activities is sponsored by: If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact us at 785-366-6186 or thehillcitytimes@gmail.com

CHECK USD281.COM
 Schedule subject to change without notice

75th Annual Hill City United Methodist Ground Hog Supper



Wednesday, February 4
5 to 6:30 pm • Fellowship Hall
Hill City United Methodist Church

- Whole Hog Sausage
- Ham
- Biscuits
- Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy
- Cole Slaw
- Pie
- Coffee
- Tea
- Water

ALL You Can Eat!
Donations Accepted!

Served by the
 Hill City Methodist Men

There Will Also Be A Quantity Of Uncooked Sausage Available For Sale!

We Appreciate Our Readers
& We Need Your Support!

THE HILL CITY TIMES
I Look Forward to Hearing From You!!
 Submit Stories & Photos to thehillcitytimes@gmail.com



Contact Information: The Hill City Times
thehillcitytimes@gmail.com • Phone Hours 785-524-4200

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 - Noon



Candle ceremony held for FCCLA

Congratulations to the outgoing District A FCCLA officers and HCHS student leader Regina Baldwin for a job well done! New officers were installed with a candle ceremony at the FCCLA event in Oakley. Best wishes to the incoming officers!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Morland, Kansas
Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5 P.M., Sundays
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>BOGUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Bogue, Kansas
Worship: 9 A.M. Sundays
Sunday School: 10 A.M.</p> <p>CHRISTIAN CHURCH
122 N. Pomeroy, Hill City
Worship: 9 A.M. and Sunday School: 10:15 A.M.</p> <p>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
206 N. Middle, Hill City
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:35 A.M., Sun., 6 P.M., Sun. 7 P.M., Wed.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Nicodemus, Kansas
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Church: 11 A.M.
Bible Study: Wed., 5:30 P.M.</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
223 N. 4th Ave., Hill City
Worship: 9 A.M. & Coffee Fellowship following.</p> <p>FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST
8th and Walnut, Hill City
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. Sun.
Youth Program: 6 P.M. Sun.</p> <p>GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
11th and Hill, Hill City
Worship: 4 P.M. Sunday
Bible Study: 3 p.m. Sunday</p> <p>H₂O CHURCH.TV
305 N. Pomeroy, Hill City
5:00 p.m.
Praise - Worship - Message</p> <p>HILL CITY CHURCH OF GOD
Third and Cedar, Hill City
Worship: 10:30 A.M.</p> <p>HILL CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
118 N. 4th Ave., Hill City
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> | <p>Worship: 10:45 A.M.</p> <p>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
10 N. 10th Ave., Hill City
Masses: 6 P.M., Saturdays; 11 A.M. Sundays</p> <p>PRAIRIE HOME UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
12 miles south, 1/4 mile East of Hill City on "E" Rd.
Worship: 9:15 A.M.</p> <p>RED LINE CHURCH OF GOD
3804 H Rd., Palco, Kansas
Worship: 8:45 A.M.
Fellowship: 10 A.M.
Sunday School: 10:30 A.M.
Bible Study: 7 P.M. Wed.</p> <p>ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
Damar, Kansas
Mass: 9 A.M., Sundays</p> <p>THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF GOD
519 N. East, Hill City
Sunday Worship: 10 A.M.
Family Training Hour: 7 P.M., Wednesday</p> <p>MORLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Worship: 6 P.M., Sunday
Bible Study: 5 P.M., Sunday</p> <p>UNITED METHODIST
Palco, Kansas
Worship/Service: 9 A.M.
Fellowship Time: 10 A.M.</p> <p>UNITED PARISH OF LENORA
Worship: 10:30 A.M.
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST
6.5 miles south of Morland, Ks.
Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.
Worship: 10:50 A.M.</p> <p>AWANA program: 5-7 P.M.
Wed. Men's Prayer, 7 A.M.
Wed. Youth Group, 7 P.M.
Bible Study in Homes, 7 P.M. Wednesdays
3rd Sunday Fellowship Dinner</p> |
|---|--|



Logan's Hometown Market in Phillips County Awarded SEED Grant

To Support Rural Grocery Sustainability

Phillips County Economic Development (PCED) is pleased to announce that Hometown Market, owned by Sandra and Terry Gottschalk, has been awarded funding through the Strategic Economic Expansion and Development (SEED) Grant. The grant is administered by the Office of Rural Prosperity at the Kansas Department of Commerce. PCED applied for the grant on behalf of Hometown Market to help strengthen essential services and support long-term economic vitality in rural Kansas. The purpose of the SEED Grant program is to support economic revitalization efforts in Kansas communities with populations under 5,000 through targeted investments in quality-of-life initiatives. Funding for the program is provided through the Technology Enabled Fiduciary Financial Institutions (TEFFI) Development and Expansion Fund. The TEFFI Act was enacted in 2021 through bipartisan legislation to promote economic development across the state. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of locally owned grocery stores is a growing priority in rural communities throughout Kansas. Access to a hometown grocery store is not only a convenience; it is a critical component of food security,

economic resilience, and community stability. Running a family-owned grocery store like Hometown Market involves far more than keeping shelves stocked. Behind every stocked aisle, the Gottschalk family navigates rising food costs, supply-chain disruptions, staffing challenges, facility maintenance, regulatory compliance, and long operating hours. It requires constant decision-making, early mornings, late nights, and a deep commitment to ensuring residents have access to fresh, affordable food close to home. Local grocery stores play a vital role in

See "SEED" Pg 5

Church Services are sponsored by:

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If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact us at 785-524-4200 or thehillcitytimes@gmail.com

Graham County Commission Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026

Commissioner Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with the flag salute with Commissioner Nelson, Commissioner Irby, County Clerk Kendra Robinson, Appraiser Rachele Standley, Road & Bridge Supervisor Wayne Pfeifer, and community members Jarrod Knoll & Tracy Helberg in attendance. The County Clerk requested a motion to amend the agenda, moving Road & Bridge Supervisor Wayne Pfeifer to the 10:00 a.m. time slot due to the absence of Graham County Hospital CEO Jonathan Gleason. The Clerk also requested that New Business be moved to 10:30 a.m. due to the absence of Dawson Place Administrator Brandy Born. Commissioner Irby made a motion to amend the agenda per the Clerk's request. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. The Motion carried 2-0. Graham County Road & Bridge Supervisor - Wayne Pfeifer Wayne reported that there are currently four employees blading roads and five trucks in operation today.

Commissioner Nelson stated that the Board would check into available trucks and see what options could be identified. Commissioner Irby stated that the Board held a work session with Wayne earlier that morning, during which Wayne identified his biggest challenges as the need for additional personnel and improved equipment. Commissioner Nelson stated that Clerk Robinson could assist with advertising the position on Facebook and the county website. Wayne explained his reasoning for budgeting what may appear to be higher than necessary, stating he was under the impression it was prudent to do so in order to allow flexibility if one line item exceeded its budget, effectively allowing funds to be shifted as needed. Wayne further stated that costs across the board have increased, including employee wages. Commissioner Nelson responded that the Board would see what they could do to assist him. Commissioner Irby stated that he believes it is important to train new employees in the skills and practices of the more experienced,

seasoned staff to ensure a smoother transition period. New Business The County Clerk presented Resolution 2026-03, a resolution to cancel certain county warrants, and requested a motion. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-03. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. Clerk Robinson presented a voucher for the Kansas quarterly unemployment taxes for review and signatures. The Commissioners reviewed and signed the voucher. The County Clerk presented the annual FRA declaration for signature by the Chairman. The Chairman reviewed and signed the declaration. The County Clerk informed the Commissioners that the Township of Allodium had presented minutes requesting the appointment of Amber Roach to fill the vacancy for Township Trustee and asked for a motion. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to appoint Amber Roach as Trustee of Allodium Township. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. See "COMMISSION" Pg 7

HILL CITY NUTRITION SITE

Welcome in House Participants & Carry-Out

Friday, January 30: Tomato Soup, Tuna Salad, Crackers, Fruit, Cobbler

Monday, February 2: Chicken Patty Sandwich, Broccoli, Bun, Cinnamon, Pears, Cookie

Tuesday, February 3: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Bread, Mandarin Oranges

Wednesday, February 4: Ground Beef Veg Soup, Baked Potato, Bread, Applesauce

Thursday, February 5: Oven Baked Chicken, Au Gratin Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Bread, Ambrosia Salad

Menu Subject to Change
Meal \$4 • Guests under 60 \$7

SNAP Benefits (previously known as food stamps) can be used to contribute towards the meal. If you need help applying for SNAP, call our office at 1-800-432-7422.

Graham County Landfill

Rates are rising
\$5/ton
 Starting Sunday, February 1st
 The minimum is still \$5

Challenge/page 1

Results

A chain reaction

Our solution has a powerful added benefit: It doesn't just save lives, it improves them. Behavior improves. Attitudes improve. Test scores improve. Participation improves. Students that feel safe and connected are better able to retain information, because security enables memory encoding. They are more curious, because their cognitive functions are not inhibited. All of which leads to more confidence and resilience. It's actual neuroscience. It's also common sense.

Kindness makes us feel good – that's actual science, too. And the hidden magic of kindness is that it spreads – because we naturally mirror what we experience. Rachel called it a Chain Reaction – and over 20 years later, the longest paper chains on earth prove she was right.

Who we are

Rachel's Challenge is a non-political, non-religious, non-profit organization dedicated to creating positive school cultures and ending school violence in all its forms.

We are the most effective, proven, long-standing program in the world for preventing gun violence, self-harm and suicide, ending bullying and harassment, and improving youth mental health. With over 20 years in the field, tens of millions of lives touched, and many thousands of lives saved, Rachel's Challenge has the track record and experience that educators and families can rely on.

Oh, and that bit about preventing violence in schools? We don't do that directly. The students, teachers, and individuals that are touched by Rachel's Story – they do that.

Learn more at rachelschallenge.org

Send your stories, news & photos to thehillcitytimes@gmail.com

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 hfrs, 600-700, wean 60 days; 61 blk/red strs, 825-875, all AI sired; 25 mostly blk hfrs, 750, long wean, open; 55 blk hfrs, 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 strs, 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 strs, 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 strs, 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)

Special Weaned/Vacc Sales

Tuesday, February 3

For a complete list of cattle for all sales check out our website at: www.fandrillive.com

Sales Manager, Mike Samples

Office: 785-825-0211 Cell: 785-826-7884

Salina, Kansas

Listen to our markets on KSAL, Salina at 6:45 a.m. Mon. thru Fri.

For more information or to consign cattle call sale barn or:

Fieldman Representatives:

Kenny Briscoe • Lincoln, KS • 785-658-7386

Lisa Long • Ellsworth, KS • 620-553-2351

Cody Schafer • 620-381-1050

Auctioneers:

Kyle Elwood, Brandon Hamel, and Garren Walrod

JESSICA BUTTERS, TWIN CREEKS EXTENSION DISTRICT,
AG & NATURAL RESOURCES EXTENSION AGENT

Boxelder Bugs are Surprisingly Polite

Last week I found a boxelder bug sitting on my sleeve. I decided to get to know these critters a bit better, and to test if they truly don't bite. Read on to hear about what I learned!

What are boxelder bugs? What do they look like?

Boxelder bugs are one of those insects that you can truly call bugs, for those who like to be pedantic. They are in the "True bug" order of insects, called "Hemiptera" (which is a Greek word for half-winged). Boxelder bugs have orange stripes that form a V near the ends of their backs; that is where the "half-wings" ends! They also have bright red eyes and fold their wings in an X-shape across their backs. This folding makes a triangle on their backs between where their shoulders would be if bugs had shoulders. This triangle is a great way to identify many bugs in the Hemiptera or "true bug" order! But let's get to the big question. How, in the world of freezes, are boxelder bugs surviving winter and entering your home?

Why are they all over the place?

With the exception of that snowstorm we had around January 23rd, our winter has been pretty mild. Hot and dry summers with mild winters will lead to more boxelder bugs. This winter they are, like us, looking for the comfiest place to spend cold days and freezing nights. While the bugs do a bug-form of hibernation during the winter, finding the warmest spot possible will cost them less energy. Using less energy grows their chances of surviving until spring! There isn't a pesticide that's going

to get rid of every single boxelder bug, though some people like perimeter treatments/sprays. Currently, vacuuming them up rather than smashing them is a great control method. I would also caulk cracks and gaps in the foundation, walls, and windows whenever I found them (this also helps keep the winter cold out). If you find a ton of boxelder bugs this spring, you can use a shop vac to try and remove as many adults as possible. If you can't reach them and they're on the side of a building, spraying them with a hose will knock them down, and they are susceptible to drowning from that. But these are pretty harmless bugs, as I demonstrate below!

Do they bite or cause any problems?

I found one crawling on my sleeve a couple weeks ago and decided to answer this question for myself. I picked the little guy up, pushed him around with my finger while he crawled on my hand, and held him with my fist closed before tossing him outside. I survived without a single nip. He didn't even try to fly. Boxelder bugs are gentle creatures and they crawl pretty slow. While we don't appreciate seeing lots of them on or in our homes, they are completely harmless. The only caveat is if you let their bodies pile up in your house, you may trigger some allergies or asthma. Be sure to vacuum them up, which I'm sure you would do anyway.

Why are they called boxelder bugs?

They love drinking from boxelder trees like a straw. They also like a multitude of other plants and trees,

including maples, ash, and some fruit trees. They very rarely cause serious damage to trees, and they don't carry any filth or diseases.

Do they offer any benefits?

These are great bugs to have your kids interact with if you're trying to dampen their fear of bugs. Know that if you smash them, they may release a bad-smelling/tasting chemical and possibly a red mark on your carpet. They are similar to monarch butterflies with this defense system, and their bright markings warn predators of this feature. Boxelder bugs also don't eat food in your pantry or chew on your clothes or building structures. Because they are mostly hibernating this time of year, they are focused on using as little energy as possible. Eating is not their current priority.

Boxelder bugs are some of the most polite and unproblematic bugs I know. When you find one in your house, try to take a closer look out of curiosity. Can you spot their red eyes?



Boxelder Bug (courtesy photo)

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 tempera-

tures 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 Settlement 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.

Cowman's Kind

BULL & FEMALE SALE

February 28, 2026
12:30 p.m. (CST)
At the Ranch - Barnard, Kansas

WATCH AND BID LIVE ONLINE:
DVAuction

Grand Champion Balancer Pen of 5 Bulls. They all sell as does our Reserve Champion Gelbvieh Pen of 3 Bulls! Lot 111, Lot 115, Lot 118, Lot 121, Lot 126

POST ROCK CATTLE COMPANY
3041 E. Hwy. 284
Barnard, KS 67418

Leland Clark: 785.392.0888
Kyle Cavalli: 785.531.1947
Will Johnson: 316.737.9812
Office: 785.792.6244
Email: prcc@twinvalley.net

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JAN

28

1815: 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.

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THE HILL CITY TIMES

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Taking Bids
 USD 281 Graham County School District is taking bids to replace 10 to 67 windows at Hill City Grade School located at 214 North 4th Ave, Hill City.
 Companies wanting to submit a bid for the project need to contact USD 281 Maintenance Director Joshua Smith at (785)421-8645 to schedule an appointment. Interested companies must visit the site, measure the windows and prepare a bid.

Notice is hereby given to Colleen Smith Jones personal property and automobile left at 409 S. Middle, Hill City is considered abandoned. This must be removed by 2/15/2026 or it will be disposed of. Contact 785-421-8088

SEED/page 3

rural communities across the state. They provide employment opportunities, serve as reliable access points for essential goods, and help reduce economic leakage by keeping spending closer to home. Without strong local grocery stores, rural areas face increased risk of food access challenges and greater dependence on distant services.

When residents choose to shop at locally owned grocery stores, they are doing more than purchasing groceries. They are supporting rural jobs, strengthening small businesses, and helping ensure that essential services remain available for future generations. These choices contribute directly to the sustainability of rural communities and the quality of life they offer.

Beyond their economic role, grocery stores like Hometown Market often serve as community anchors—supporting local events, schools, and organizations, and stepping up during times of need. Each shopping trip represents an investment in the continued viability of rural living in Kansas.

Phillips County Economic Development appreciates the continued commitment of the Kansas Department of Commerce and its Office of Rural Prosperity to rural communities through the SEED Grant program and congratulates Hometown Market on this significant achievement.

Shopping local isn't just convenient—it's powerful.

Phone Number & Website
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HANSEN MUSEUM NEWS BY SHARI BUSS

And the people have spoken! After tallying the ballots for the People's Choice Award in the Hansen Museum Open Call Christmas/Winter Quilt Exhibition, the winner is Glenna Wright for her spectacular round quilt, Christmas Celebration. Congratulations to Glenna on a truly well-deserved honor.

As if that weren't impressive enough, Glenna was also selected by the jury for the Best of Show Award. It's always gratifying when public opinion aligns perfectly with the judges—clearly, everyone agreed on this outstanding selection. Keep quilting, Glenna—you are a star!

Cold temperatures and snow were no match for our Magic of Painting instructor. Hope braved the elements and arrived as scheduled for her weekend of classes, and—believe it or not—so did several dedicated students. Saturday's class tackled a painting of a castle in ruins. Despite its crumbling state, the castle cast a peaceful, almost enchanted mood, and the painters seemed to capture that same sense of quiet serenity on their canvases.

On Sunday, the class turned its attention to a misty waterfall. Some students painted their scenes in lush, vibrant greens, while others drew inspiration from the snowy landscape outside, choosing barren trees dusted with snow. No matter the season depicted, all the paintings turned out beautifully. Instructor Hope Blakely did a wonderful job teaching and inspiring her students.

Next up on our exhibition schedule is the 49th Annual High School Exhibition. For the past forty-eight years, the month of February has been dedicated to inspiring young artists—an impressive tradition, considering the Museum has been open to the public for 54 years. This year's exhibition will feature work from students at Norton Community, Hill City, Phillipsburg, Pike Valley, Smith Center, Trego Community, Cornerstone Classical, and Stockton High Schools.

The exhibition will be ready for public viewing on Friday, January 30th, and will remain on display through March 1st. We are excited to see what this year's students have in store and encourage everyone to make plans to visit and support these talented young artists.

We hope to see you at the Museum soon. The Hansen Museum is located at 110 W. Main Street in Logan, Kansas. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m.; and Sunday and holidays, 1:00-5:00 p.m. The Museum is fully handicap-accessible, and thanks to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, admission is always free. For more information, please call 785-689-4846.



Double honors! Glenna Wright of Logan is pictured with her quilt Christmas Celebration, which received both the People's Choice Award and Best of Show at the Hansen Museum's Open Call Christmas/Winter Quilt Exhibition.




All smiles as LaRetta Mallory of Yuma, Colorado adds foliage to a tree with a sponge while working on her castle ruins painting during the Hansen Museum's Saturday Magic of Painting class.




Proud artist moment! Mary Bushnell of Phillipsburg smiles with her completed waterfall painting following Sunday's Magic of Painting class at the Hansen Museum.

Semester 1 - Honor Roll - 2025-2026


Student Name	Grade	Level	Student Name	Grade	Level	Student Name	Grade	Level
Bell, Cloe	12	Principal's	Baldwin, Regina	12	Red	Bell, Kyra	12	White
Blanks, Maxxson	12	Principal's	Dooley, Cadence	12	Red	Budig, Ryan	12	White
Christian, Sarah	12	Principal's	Keiswetter, Koby	12	Red	Hall, Aiden	12	White
Elliott, Luke	12	Principal's	Morris, Shawn	12	Red	Mauck, Kamryn	12	White
Minium, Rylie	12	Principal's	Ashmore, Cora	11	Red	Walter, Rachel	12	White
Shellito, Johanna	12	Principal's	Bell, Gavin	11	Red	Zohner, Vincent	12	White
Stinemetz, Kloe	12	Principal's	Carder, Hailey	11	Red	Bell, Chase	11	White
Christian, MaryAnne	11	Principal's	Berland, Jenna	10	Red	Gugelmann, Kenley	11	White
Deges, Anthony	11	Principal's	Keiswetter, Brayli	10	Red	Hart, Eva	11	White
Farrar, Zoe	11	Principal's	Brack, Briley	9	Red	Lee, Joshua	11	White
Knoll, Wyatt	11	Principal's	Brassfield, Nicolas	9	Red	Ottley, Dakkota	11	White
Owen, Colin	11	Principal's	McNabb, Rylee	9	Red	Presley, Mitchell	11	White
Bartlett, Jennifer	10	Principal's	Elliott, Piper	8	Red	Rohr, Slade	11	White
Farrell, Rebecca	10	Principal's	Morris, Maelyn	8	Red	Billips, Greeley	10	White
Harmon, Blake	10	Principal's	Brassfield, Ava	7	Red	McGee, Sophie	10	White
Jones, Corbin	10	Principal's	Hofstetter, Jase	7	Red	Minium, Rance	10	White
Atkins, Christopher	9	Principal's	Jilka, Beckett	7	Red	Obermeyer, Emmitt	10	White
Flax, Jordan	9	Principal's	Keith, Tyler	7	Red	Plante, Easton	10	White
Rohr, Sabri	9	Principal's	Martinez, Joshua	7	Red	Smith, Jaxson	10	White
Maske, Scarlet	8	Principal's	Schulz, Jackson	7	Red	Stewart, Kiptyn	10	White
Nutting, Keyli	8	Principal's	VanLoenen, Josslynn	7	Red	Fountain, Dayna	9	White
Randall, Philip Clark	8	Principal's	Washington, Ronnie	7	Red	Martinez, Oscar	9	White
Atkins, Allison	7	Principal's				McGee, Daniel	9	White
Desbien, Alexis	7	Principal's				Smee, Emily	9	White
Riedel, Cooper	7	Principal's				Breinig, Averlee	8	White
Stein, Kalan	7	Principal's				Gwin, Vincent	8	White
Zohner, Isabella	7	Principal's				McNabb, Dylan	8	White
						Reichert, Dean	8	White
						Ruder, Easton	8	White
						Stithem, Kase	8	White
						Berland, Jace	7	White
						Born, Beau	7	White
						Ramirez, Samuel	7	White




20007 40 HWY, WaKeeney - \$250,000
4 beds, 2 baths, beautiful farmstead with barn, great location, close to town




124 Delaware, Ransom - \$105,000
Newly remodeled 3 bed 1 bath original wood floors




913 Warren, Wakeeney - \$80,000
3 bed 1 bath, outdoor bar/kitchen




812 MAIN ST. WAKEENEY - \$182,500
4 bed, 2 bath, main floor laundry, great location



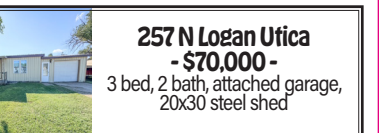
206 W OGDEN St., Ransom - \$40,000
2 bed, 1 bath, large corner lot, detached garage




402 N 8th, Hill City - \$115,000
4 bed, 2 bath, enclosed porch, detached 2 car garage




820 N 6th St., Wakeeney - \$335,000
5 bed, 3 bath, updated brick home, beautiful landscaping




257 N Logan Ufca - \$70,000
3 bed, 2 bath, attached garage, 20x30 steel shed



224 Kedzie, Wakeeney - \$159,000
4 bed, 2 bath, main floor laundry, large corner lot



321 N School, Ness City - \$240,000
4 bed, 3 bath, 2 car garage, large corner lot




317 N 7th WaKeeney - \$189,000
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Have a great week!

Commission/page 3

Clerk Robinson presented a request from the Graham County Hospital for reimbursement for the Avel eDOCS on the wall system in the amount of \$29,411.58, to be paid from the health care sales tax fund, and requested a motion. Commissioner Irby made a motion to approve payment for the Doc on the Wall system in the amount of \$29,411.58. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0. The County Clerk presented the abstracts of the Commissioner meeting minutes from December 23, 2025, and December 30, 2025, for signature by the Chairman. The Chairman reviewed and signed the abstracts. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes from January 6, 2026. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0. The County Clerk reported that, per procedure, a new Chairman must be appointed on the second Tuesday of January. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to appoint Commissioner Irby as Chairman for 2026. Commissioner Irby accepted the appointment. The motion carried 2-0. The County Clerk reported that she had included an assessment cap explanation in the Commissioners' binders for review and noted that Graham County Appraiser Rachelle Standley was present to provide further explanation.

Graham County Appraiser - Rachelle Standley
Rachelle stated that the tax committee is currently discussing the proposal and advised

the Commissioners to monitor the legislation as it progresses. Rachelle explained that the proposal would implement a 3% assessment cap and expressed her concern about the potential loss of uniformity. She reported that the plan would use tax year 2022 as a base year with a 3% increase through 2027 and questioned where the funding would come from to cover the resulting shortfall. Commissioner Irby asked Rachelle if she would be available to address any additional questions. Rachelle confirmed that she would be happy to assist and stated she would keep the Board informed as the legislation progresses.

New Business, Part 2
The County Clerk presented the Treasurer's Transition and Compliance Plan for review and discussion. Clerk Robinson also reported that the Osborne County Treasurer would be on site tomorrow, Wednesday, January 14, 2026, to assist in the Treasurer's Office. She further stated that as of Monday, January 12, 2026, all outstanding tax payments had been deposited. The Clerk also noted that Bri is currently working on reconciling the 2024 tax roll and is nearly complete with that process. Commissioner Irby stated that he questioned whether it would be necessary to formally appoint the Deputy Treasurer during the interim period but felt it would be acceptable since the individual is already serving in the same capacity of Treasurer in her absence. He also suggested the possibility of closing the office for the week to allow

staff time to catch up, with services available by appointment only during that period. Commissioner Irby asked whether the Commissioners needed to be present while the Osborne County Treasurer is on site or if the County Clerk could sit in and report back. Commissioner Nelson stated that if the Clerk's Office could spare the Deputy, she could attend since she is seeking appointment to the position. Commissioner Irby responded that he would prefer Clerk Robinson to be involved and provide a report back to the Board. The Commissioners asked if any community members had questions or concerns regarding the Treasurer's Transition and Compliance Plan. Community member Tracy Helberg asked if there would be any flexibility within the plan, expressing concern that a newly appointed Treasurer may view priorities differently than those outlined. Commissioner Irby responded that there would be flexibility, noting that adjustments may be necessary when a new Treasurer comes on board. Commissioner Nelson added that the Board wanted to bring in the Osborne County Treasurer to assess the current situation and determine what steps are needed to move forward. Commissioner Irby stated that he had one additional item for New Business, noting that he has received a significant amount of negative feedback regarding the removal of the owl. Commissioner Nelson reported that he has received a great deal of supportive feedback and stated

that he is not in favor of putting it back in place. Commissioner Nelson further suggested waiting until the new Commissioner is appointed before revisiting the issue. Commissioner Irby responded that he wished they had done that in the first place but agreed to wait.

Graham County Register of Deeds - Dani Roeder

Commissioner Nelson asked Register of Deeds Dani Roeder for her thoughts regarding the removal of the owl. Dani stated that she would prefer it remain in place. Commissioner Nelson asked her to elaborate, and Dani responded that her preference was based on transparency and protection. Commissioner Nelson noted that Dani previously attended Commissioner meetings regularly but has not been doing so recently. Dani explained that there was more to that situation and stated she would be open to having a conversation about it at a later time. The Register of Deeds stated that the Commissioners were presented with reports last week that were described as end-of-year reports; however, she clarified that the reports were not complete in their entirety. Dani presented her report and provided an explanation to the Commissioners. The Commissioners asked several questions regarding the amount of revenue generated, and Dani directed the Board to the specific sections of her annual report where that information could be found. Commissioner Irby asked how the fees are allocated, including how much

remains within the county and how much should be distributed to the Heritage Trust Fund. Dani again directed the Commissioners to the final page of her report, which provided the totals, and she further explained in detail how the filing fees are processed and distributed.

Community Member - Vernie Reidel

Commissioner Nelson asked community member Vernie if he had anything to bring before the Board. Vernie reported that he was present to discuss road concerns. He stated that when a culvert was installed near his property, the crew used his driveway to turn around and indicated they would assist in repairing his fence after it was damaged during the work; however, he reported that this has not yet been addressed. Vernie stated that he had contacted the Road & Bridge Supervisor on two occasions requesting assistance after rainfall, but crews were too busy to respond. He also expressed concern about an area approximately a half mile south of the Redline, where the ditch fills with water and causes the road to become extremely muddy. Commissioner Nelson stated that he would go to the Road & Bridge Department following the meeting to discuss these concerns with Wayne.

With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Got News?

We run club, business, school, sports and life's celebrations!

Birthday Announcements

Free with a picture for 100 years or older for residents of Graham County. For 100th birthdays for non-residents with a tie to the area, the article is free. Free announcements are available for Graham County resident 75 and older. Photos can be submitted for \$25.

Anniversary Announcements

Free with one photo for 50 years and over for Graham County residents or couples with children in Graham County. Free announcements, with no photo, are available 25, 30, 40 and 45 years. Announcements can include couple's name, residence, date and place of marriage, occupations, children/grandchildren, and reception information (if applicable). Additional photos can be submitted for \$25.



Wedding Announcements

Free for Graham County residents or couples with parents in Graham County with the following information: name of bride and groom, residence, parents and residence, bridal party, where and when the wedding took place, honeymoon location and where the couple resides after wedding. Free announcements must be submitted to our office before their one year anniversary. A photo may be added for \$25.

Engagement Announcements

Free for residents of Graham County or couples with parents in Graham County with the following information: name of prospective bride and groom with residence, their parents and residence, when/where the wedding is planned, couples' schooling and occupations. Free announcement must be submitted to our office before their wedding. A photo may be added for \$25.

Birth Announcements

Free for parents and/or grandparents in Graham County with the following information: baby's name, weight, length, place of birth and date, parents name and residence, siblings, grandparents and residences, great grandparents and residences) please specify if they are deceased). A photo may be added for \$25.

Letters to the Editor

The Hill City Times, Graham County is open to views from residents within the county.

Letters to the Editor must include complete name, signature, address and phone number. Name and town will only be published in the newspaper. Free letters are limited to approximately 250 words. If a letter is more than 250 words, it is subject to editing and the full versions will be posted online. They may also be published in the paper at the editor's discretion. If the word count exceeds 250 words, the letter can be published as a paid advertisement (subject to editorial approval). Political letters are also considered paid advertisements.

Calendar Entries

Any event from Graham County which is free or by free will donation may be listed in the Times calendar. Those events are also listed in the Essential Calendar on the website, Deadline is 5 pm Friday.

Club Notes

Clubs and organizations are welcome to submit items. We publish these for free if the clubs regularly meet within Graham County.

Business Briefs

If a business is located within Graham County, or owned by a resident of Graham County submissions such as new hires, awards, etc. may be submitted for consideration. Note, this does not include sales, services or other items considered advertising.

Sports Items

We are happy to publish sports items from around the county. Don't forget your college student-athletes! Open to all Graham County residents -- including proud grandpa and grandmas!

Academic Items

We publish awards and achievements from our students around the county. This can be any level from elementary school through college.

Your item not listed?

Just give us a call or an email and tell us what you'd like published -- 785-524-4200 - or Thehillcitytimes@gmail.com

Submit editorial content by email to Thehillcitytimes@gmail.com

THE HILL CITY TIMES

The Official City & County Newspaper for Hill City, Graham County, KS



Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 28, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS - PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of

**BONITA CHARLENE HOCKER BRUTON
CASSANDRA CAY BRUTON, and
PHILLIP ELIJAH BRUTON Case No. GH-2026-PR-03**

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Tyce Hocker Bruton, praying for the determination of descent of the following described property:

An interest in and to the surface rights only and an interest in and to the mineral minerals and mineral rights as to a tract of land located in the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Thirty-Five (35), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point 577.5 feet South and 660 feet East of the Northwest corner (NW/c) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Thirty-Five (35), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas; thence East a distance of 742.5 feet to a point; thence South a distance of 825 feet to a point; thence West a distance of 742.5 feet to a point; thence North a distance of 825 feet to the point of beginning, said tract containing 14.0625 acres, more or less. Said tract of real estate includes an easement approximately 30 feet in width for the purpose of ingress and egress commencing approximately at a point 577.5 feet South of the Northwest corner (NW/c) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Thirty-Five (35), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas, and

An interest in surface rights as to the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW /4SE/4) and Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE/ 4SW / 4) of Section Thirty-Four (34), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian Graham County, Kansas, and a tract of land in the West Half of the Southwest Quarter (W/2 SW/4) of Section Thirty-Four (34), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas, commencing at the Southeast corner (SE/c) of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4SW/4) of said Section Thirty-Four (34); thence due North along the East line of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4SW/4) of said Section Thirty-Four (34) a distance of 1,854 feet to a point; thence West a distance of 825 feet to a point; thence South a distance of 864 feet, more or less, to a point which is the Northeast corner (NE/c) of that certain tract described in the Joint Tenancy Warranty Deeds recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Graham County, Kansas, in Book 266 at Page 793, 794, and 795; thence East a distance of 660 feet to a point thence South a distance of 990 feet to a point on the South line of said Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of said Section Thirty-Four (34) Township Eight (8) South Range, Twenty-Four (24) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas; thence East a distance of 165 feet to the point of beginning; and A tract lying adjacent to the West boundary line of that certain tract described in the Joint Tenancy Warranty Deeds recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Graham County, Kansas, in Book 266 at Page 793, 764, and 795 to include the real estate lying West to and including the now existing tree row.

An interest in the mineral rights and mineral rights only as to a tract of land located in the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Thirty-four (34), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point 1485 feet West of the Southeast corner (SE/c) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Thirty-Four (34), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas; thence North 990 feet to a point; thence West 660 feet to a point; thence South 990 feet to the Section line bordering the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Thirty-Four (34), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas; thence East along said section line a distance of 660 feet to the point of beginning, containing 15 acres, more or less.

And interest in term mineral rights as to mineral interests as to the South Half (S/2) of Section Thirty-Four (34), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Graham County, Kansas, LESS AND EXCEPT the 15-acre tract described above.

and all other property, real and personal, or interest therein owned by Bonita Charlene Hocker Bruton, Cassandra Cay Bruton and Phillip Elijah Bruton at the time of their deaths; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before February 25, 2026, at 10:00 am, of said day in said Graham County District Court, in the City of Hill City in Graham County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

**Tyce Hocker Bruton
Petitioner**

**Karen L. Griffiths #9919
SEBELIUS, GRIFFITHS & HORN, LLP**
P. O. Box 10
Norton, KS 67654-0010
Phone: 785-877-5143
Fax: 785-877-3456
karengriffiths@sebeliusandgriffiths.com
Attorneys for Petitioner

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 21, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of
ROY ACHESON, Deceased Case No Gh-2024-PR-000040

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by David Acheson,

Administrator of the Roy Acheson Estate, deceased, praying:

Petition for Sale Of Personal Property At Private Sale

Palco First Addition (original) Block 38, Lot block info E50'
10, 11, 12 Valued at \$58,000.00

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 17th day of February, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the City of Hill City, in Graham County,

Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein,

judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

David Acheson, Petitioner

Robert M. Berland #21856
Attorney at Law
105 E. Cherry, P.O. Box 38
Hill City, KS 67642
(785) 421-2144
Attorney for Petitioner

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 28, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS

GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION, §
§
Plaintiff, §
§

vs. § Case No. GH-2026-CV-000003
§

BILLY L. GOODENOW; RACHEL A. ORTH; §
GRAHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL; §
AND THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF §
A DEFENDANT; UNKNOWN OFFICERS, §
SUCCESSORS, TRUSTEES, CREDITORS §
AND ASSIGNS OF A DEFENDANT THAT §
IS AN EXISTING, DISSOLVED OR §
DORMANT CORPORATION; UNKNOWN §
EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, §
DEWISEES, TRUSTEES, CREDITORS, §
SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF A §
DEFENDANT THAT IS OR WAS IN §
PARTNERSHIP; UNKNOWN GUARDIANS, §
CONSERVATORS AND TRUSTEES OF A §
DEFENDANT THAT IS A MINOR OR IS §
UNDER ANY LEGAL DISABILITY; AND §
UNKNOWN TENANTS, §
Defendants. §

§ (Title to Real Estate Involved).
(Proceedings Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60)

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the district court of Graham County, Kansas, by Golden Plains Credit Union, praying for foreclosure of a real estate mortgage executed by Billy L. Goodenow and Rachel A. Orth to Golden Plains Credit Union covering the following described real estate located in Graham County, Kansas, to wit:

North One Hundred Five feet (N 105') of East Seventy-five feet (E 75') of the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Block Three (3) in GARNETT'S ADDITION to the City of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas.

and for the sale of said premises to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes and the costs of this action, and forever barring and foreclosing you and each of you from all right, title, estate, interest, or equity of redemption in or to said premises or any part thereof and you are hereby required to plead to said petition on or before the 10th day of March, 2026, in said court in Hill City, Graham County, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Golden Plains Credit Union, Plaintiff

Tomas Ellis, No. 27235
KENNEDY BERKLEY, P.A.
212 W. PINE STREET
GARDEN CITY, KANSAS 67846
(Tel.) (785) 825-4674
(Fax) (785) 825-5936
HYPERLINK "mailto:tellis@kenberk.com" tellis@kenberk.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff - GPCU



Public Hearing

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 28, 2026)

The Hill City Housing Authority will be holding a public hearing on March 18th, 2026 at 9:00 am to allow residents and the public

Opportunity to bring forth recommendation's for changes to the goals, objectives, and policies of the Hill City Housing

Authority. Current goals and policies are available for review at the Authority's office located at 905 N Third, Hill City KS 67642.

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 21, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of
FIRMA JEAN ROME AND DENNIS ROME,
BOTH DECEASED,

Case No. GH-2026-PR-000001

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by James Rome, one of the heirs at law of Firma Jean Rome, deceased, and Dennis Rome, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Graham

County, Kansas:

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 17th day of February, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the City of Hill City, in Graham County,

Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein,

judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

James Rome, Petitioner

Robert M. Berland #21856
Attorney at Law
105 E. Cherry, P.O. Box 38
Hill City, KS 67642
(785) 421-2144
Attorney for Petitioner

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 28, 2026)

Results of the Market Study Analysis Graham County Assessment Year 2026 January 22, 2026

Pursuant to K.S.A. 1995 SUPP. 79-1460a.

A study of the residential real estate market indicated that there was a general upward trend of 2-16% in areas of residential neighborhoods for the 2026 tax year.

A study of the commercial real estate market indicated that there was a general upward trend in areas of commercial neighborhoods.

A study of the vacant real estate market indicated that there was a no general upward or downward trend.

Values on specific properties may not follow the general trend because of the changes in the property, corrections of descriptive information, or adjustment of value based on sales of similar properties.

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 28, 2026)

RESOLUTION NO. 26-01

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND FIXED ASSET ACCOUNTING.

WHEREAS, the City of Hill City, Kansas has determined that the financial statements and financial reports for the year ended December 31, 2026, to be prepared in conformity with the requirements of K.S.A. 1981 75-1120(a) are not relevant to the requirements of the cash basis and budget laws of this state and are of no significant value to the Governing Body of the City of Hill City, Kansas or members of the general public of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, there are no revenue bond ordinances or resolutions or other ordinances or resolutions of said City which require financial statements and financial reports to be prepared in conformity with said act for the year ending December 31, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HILL CITY, KANSAS in regular meeting duly assembled this 19th day of January, 2026, that the City of Hill City, Kansas requests the Director of Accounts and Reports to waive the requirements of said law as they apply to the City of Hill City, Kansas for the year ended December 31, 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Governing Body shall cause its financial statement and financial reports of said City to be prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of this State.

Jean M. Bell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aphton Griffey, City Clerk

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 28, 2026)

City of Morland Year End Treasurer's Report 2025

	Begin Bal	Revenue	Expense	Balance	Budget	Budget Bal	Encumbered Funds	Fund Balances	Budget Balances
General	22,057.74	127,570.66	116,066.92	33,561.48	136,680.00	20,613.08	3375.59	30,185.89	17,237.49
Highway	19,399.08	3,057.38	2,139.30	20,317.16	22,046.00	19,906.70	0	20,317.16	19,906.70
B&I	1,139.00	0.00	0.00	1,139.00	503.00	503.00	0	1,139.00	503.00
Gas	47,373.49	104,099.66	136,872.17	14,600.98	221,241.00	84,368.83	9410.58	5,190.40	74,958.25
Water	76,442.98	45,017.18	68,404.20	53,055.96	153,971.00	85,566.80	1334.04	51,721.92	84,232.76
Sewer	161,664.59	33,982.67	17,198.08	178,449.18	167,237.00	150,038.92	131.96	178,317.22	149,906.96
Cap Imp	60,939.00	0.00	1,074.00	59,865.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,865.00	0.00
Cap Equip	87,526.00	0.00	0.00	87,526.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87,526.00	0.00
Gas Res	891.00	0.00	0.00	891.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	891.00	0.00
Water Res	55,495.00	0.00	0.00	55,495.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55,495.00	0.00
Sewer Res	12,427.00	0.00	0.00	12,427.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,427.00	0.00
	545,354.88	313,727.55	341,754.67	517,327.76			14,252.17	503,075.59	

Send your stories and news to thehillcitytimes@gmail.com



1/9/2026

The final score of the Lady Ringnecks varsity game against the Trego Eagles was 40-29. Rylie Minium had 19 points scored that night and Sabri Rohr had 4 assists, but the ringnecks fell short. Keep up the great work Lady Ringnecks!

Final score 40-29, eagles take the win

Points scored
Rylie Minium 19 pts.
Sabri Rohr 4 points
Jenna Berland 3 points
Kamryn Mauck 3 points

Assists
Brayli Keiswetter 1
Sabri Rohr 4
Rylie Minium 2
Scarlett Harmon 1

The boys basketball game against the Trego Eagles was close, 51-50. Vincent Zohner and Kason Mauck both had 18 points scored that game and Blake Harmon had 7 assists. They were able to pull ahead and win by one point. Great job Ringnecks!

Final score 51-50, Ringnecks take the win

Points scored
Vincent Zohner 18 points
Kason Mauck 18 points

Koby Keiswetter 10 points
Case Haynes 5 points

Assists
Kason Mauck 4
Koby Keiswetter 5
Blake Harmon 7
Case Haynes 1
Vincent Zohner 1

1/17/2026

The final score against Oakley was 49-46 with Oakley getting the win at home.

Points scored
Vincent Zohner 19 points
Kason Mauck 16 points
Koby Keiswetter 9 points
Blake Harmon 2 points

Assists
Koby Keiswetter 7
Blake Harmon 3
Chase Bell 1
Case Haynes 1
Kason Mauck 1

Lady Ringnecks vs. Plainville

Final score 36-29, Plainville won

Points
Jenna Berland 10
Kamryn Mauck 8
Sabri Rohr 7
Rylie Minium 2
Brayli Keiswetter 2

Assist
Brayli Keiswetter 1
Sabri Rohr 1
Jenna Berland 1
Scarlett Harmon 1

GRAHAM COUNTY'S PAST

IN PRINTER'S INK

VERA FISCHER, GH CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY



125 years ago - Jan 31, 1901 The People's Reveille

FOR SALE: A good farm of 160 acres, in the best part of Graham County, 95 acres in cultivation, all under fence; 2 room sod-house, frame stable for 6 head horses; good cattle shed for thirty head stock; frame granary; sod chicken house, and cave; good well of water and windmill. Price \$610.00. Enquire at this office.

100 years ago - Jan 21, 1926 The Reveille New Era

Thrift week for Kansas, calls for husband and wife to budget their earnings, living and other expense items. That is, if your income is approximately \$1500 a year, keep under this sum, if you don't want to owe Tom, Dick and Harry at the end of the year. A good business principle, at least.

75 years ago - Jan. 18, 1951 The Hill City Times

Names of 70 fall sports letter winners have been JUST A REMINDER: Speed limit anywhere in Hill City is 20 MPH. All streets entering Highway 24 or 283 inside city limits are STOP streets, whether or not a stop sign is seen. A STOP sign does not mean slow down and look. It means STOP. Local drivers are asked to observe traffic rules and save themselves fines for violations.

50 Years ago - Jan. 15, 1976 The Hill City Times

Mr. and Mrs. Alva Ambrosier of Hill City will be honored with a reception on their 40th Wedding Anniversary. The event will be held Sunday, January 18, at the Western Hills Restaurant's banquet room in Hill City between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 P.M. Friends and relatives are cordially invited to call and greet the honored couple who were married January 21, 1936. Hosting the occasion will be their eight children: Helen, Pauline, Elden, Gene, Dennis, Gerald, Bob and Darrell.

25 Years ago - Jan. 3, 2001 The Hill City Times

A downtown Hill City retail business will open here under new ownership tomorrow, Thursday, January 4. A & A Gambles, which has been owned and operated since 1975 by Alvin and Alice Denk of Hill City, was sold effectively the first of the year to Mrs. Alice Ruder. Mrs. Ruder, a WaKeeney resident, has been part of the Hill City business community since 1989 and currently owns and operates Serendipity, a store which features clothing and shoes for the family, as well as jewelry and gift items, located at 218 West Main Street here, next door to the Gambles store.

LIEAP Application Period Opens

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.



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.



NPFARMS, LLC EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Monday, February 9th, 2026 – 10:30 am

11943 Rd. 2 Sidney, NE 69162

From Peetz, CO go 2.3mi North on Hwy 113 to Rd. 78, East 8mi to Rd. 67 then North 1.2mi to Rd. 2 then East to sale site.

From Proctor, CO go 2.8mi East on Hwy 138 to Rd. 71 then North 12.8mi to Rd. 2 then West to Sale Site.



On Site Auction with Live and Pre-Auction Internet Bidding. Items with no internet bidding capabilities start at 10:30 am, items with internet bidding capabilities sell at approximately 1:00 pm.

Tractors, Trucks, Trailers & Pickup sell after equip-(Online Bidding Available)-07 JD 8130 MFWD, PS, 3pt w/QH, Big 1000 PTO, 4hyd, Pwr Bynd, Trmble gdnce equip w/AG25 recver & FMX mnt, Center Point RTX actvtd, 480/80R46 dls, 2,624hrs, 2nd ownr-09 Case IH Magnum 275 MFWD, PS, 3pt w/QH, Big 1000 PTO, 4hyd, frnt suspnsn, prmium cab, Trmble gdnce equip w/AG25 recver & FM1000 dsply, Field IQ cntrls w/Center Point RTX actvtn, 380/80R38 frnt dls, 380/90R54 rear dls, 8,013hrs, 2nd ownr-75 Oliver 1365 dsl, 3pt, 540 PTO, 1 hyd, pwr strng-84 Frghtlnr conv. semi, Cat 3406A, 13spd, air ride, 898k mi-87 Frghtlnr TS w/Mohrlang XHD-20 3 chn 2 btr mnre bx, Cat 3406A, 9spd, slge racks & gate, 613k mi-75 Ford LN600 SA w/Jacobs 18' all steel grm bx & Wstfld tailgate mnt drill fill aug, 361 V8, 5&2spd, 166k mi-07 Wilson 102'x52' alum grnd load semi lvstck trlr, air rde, 4 dvdr gtes-09 Maurer 96'x42'x66" hppr bttm grm trlr, RO tarp, ag hpprs w/side chtes, 1 ownr-06 Fontaine 102x48 step deck spry tndr trlr, 3,000 & 3,700gal blk poly tnks, Honda motor w/pmp, 15gal eductor, 4 DuraPumps w/Dura mtrs & mtrd nzzles, clsd tndm air ride-74 Hyster 96'x30' w/2' dve trple axle semi mchnry trlr, wkng beam suspnsn, flip over rmps-08 Maxey 101'x25' +5' dove trple axle GN FB trlr, flip over rmps-Harvest Hand 9 md bale GN hay trlr w/3pt spear & htch-13 Ford F-150 ext. cab shrt bx, 5.4L V8, auto, 4x4, 250k mi

Combines & Heads, Sprayer, Farm Equip & Attachments, Fuel & Product Tanks & More sell at approx. 1:00 (Online Bidding Available)-12 JD S670 cmbne cntr mstr, sprdr, 520/85R42 dls, 3,168/2,157hrs, 2nd ownr-09 JD 612C corn hd, Height sense, hyd. deck plts, stbble lghts-14 JD 635FD fix-drpr hd, PU reel, fore & aft, stbble lghts-JD 912 dmmy hd w/Sund 9' PU-B-B 38' tndm axle hdr trlr, lghts & frnt fndrs-Demco 38' tndm axle hdr trlr, brakes, lghts & frnt fndrs-BBK 30' single axle hdr trlr, lghts-12 Case IH Patriot 3330 self-propild spry, 1,000gal stnlss main tnk, 120' boom, 5 way nzzles, stnlss prdct lnes, 7 sect shftoff, tread adjst, edctr, Trmble gdnce equip w/372 recver & Pro 700 mnt, Center Point RTX actvtd, 5,386hrs-JD 1760 MaxEmerge XP 12R30' plntr, 3bu bxes, Martin trsh whps, fngr clng whls, pnmtc dwn prsrre, in-frw & 2x2 liquid fert, Trmble intgrtd mntng, 2nd ownr-GreatPlains 3010 7.5'x30' dbl dsc frnt fld grm drill, shft mnt, frnt coulters, rub prss, dbl sprng dwn prsrre-2011 JD 568 md blr, CoverEdge net wrp, MegaWide Plus PU, wndwr rlr, ble ckcr, 25k bles, 2nd ownr-7 new rolls cover edge net wrp-NH 275T sm sq blr-Inland sm bale accmtr-Case IH 8380 16' hydra swng swthr, rub on steel cndtnr-Vermeer R23A hyd twm rkes-Pequea 710 wndwr ffr-CrustBuster 3202 25' dbl OS dsc-Krause 4000 37' sprng shnk fld cult, wkng tndms, wing ga whls, dead rods-Richardson 31' mlch trdr-Big G 14' dbl OS dsc-JD 100 15' chsl-Oliver 6 btm one way plw-Calkins 31' rod wdr-2 JD DR 10'x13' SD grm drlls & twm htch-Simonsen dry fert sprdr-Better-Bilt 1000gal hney wllgr, bad pmp-12' 4 way dze blde, White mnts-BushHog 1423 3pt 6' tndm dsc-Rhino 3pt 6' rtry mllwr-SB hyd log spltr-3pt pst hie dggr w/9' & 12' augs-SB pto wre rlr & wre-3pt md bale carrier-10' & 20' sprng tooth drg hrws-Towner 3pt 8' sprng tooth fld cult-spke tooth drg hrw sect-Ferguson 3pt 2 btm one way plw-Moline 2 btm tmble bug plw-IH PT 2 btm one way plw-JD 3 btm one way plw-Morris 30' 3 bar hrws-78'x10' digi pltfm scle, J-star scle hd-28'x8' digi scle, Tru Test AG500 scle hd-LvstckSystems Inc 12' prtble ldnng chte-WinPower 80/50 pto gen. on trlr-WinPower 45/25 pto gen. on trlr-Limamac 480v gen. on trlr, Cummins 6VT 12 vlv mtr, 1524hrs-6'x10' tilt bed utility trlr-550, 1050, 1500 & 3000 gal poly pvt tnks-Dura Pump 4000 12v pmp w/metered nzzle-15,000gal vert. fuel tnk w/GasBoy 110v pmp-2250gal vert. fuel tnk w/Fill-Rite 20gpm 110v pmp & mtr-(2) 560gal LP tnks cnvrted to fuel-500gal top fill LP tnk-500gal NH3 tnk-Shop Equip, Tools, Farm & Livestock Misc & More sells at 10:30am (No Online Bidding)-Honda BG5000X gen-Onan Pro4000E gen-Jet tble tp drill prss-3pts wshr-dble whl grndrs on stnds-oxylacet trch set on crt-Blue Ridge chry pckr-3T flr jck-Solar 450 & NAPA bttry chrgs-3hp single phse air comp-air comp-Montgomery Ward rlng tlbx-Rem-Line rlng tlbx-Case IH rlng tl crt-rflng tl crt-trch crt-several hnd & pwr tools-ordlss pwr tools-pnmtc tools-various pullers-chns & bmsr-bick & tckle-metal shp bnch-4'x10' metal rck-2 elevator bckt bolt bins-3 trlrs sm farm misc-Warrior Cat. ll qck htch-White stce wghts-NH stce wghts-whl wghts-various drill fill & sm bin augs-chsl pnts-swps-JD cmbne hard thrshng kit-Banjo vlvs & ftngs-semi 5th whl plte-plstc ¼ fndrs-Ford truck grlls-wtr tnk on steel running gear-stl whl mnre sprdr running gear-stl whls-T & elec fnce psts-3 Martin hog fdrs-3 wnd vane mnrl fdrs-firwng crate flr frmes & wire msh flng-Pearson hd ctsr-slide-in stck rck-chckn scldr-elec chckn plckr-chckn brdr-L.B. White brn htr & dryer-LP btles-crsvr PU tool bxs-Ford 361 mtr-6' corrugated tin-Assrd vehicle, truck & implement tires-Plus More-Owners: Bruce, Martin & Eugene Nienhueser

Note: Nienhueser's have been on this place for 3 generations. Bruce, Martin & Eugene started farming and raising hogs and selling breeding stock full time as they graduated high school. When they got out of the hog business in 1999, they started raising cattle and expanded their farming acres. All three boys have decided it is time to retire from farming and slow down a little bit. The equipment is well maintained, and the rolling stock has been shedded. Plan to attend! **Loader available on auction day and the next day 10am – 2pm.** Lunch available auction day.



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'Kansas before Kansas' at Trego County Historical Society

What was life like before Kansas achieved statehood? Join the Trego County Historical Society for a captivating presentation by Keven Hiibert during their belated Kansas Day program, where he will transport viewers to the era of trappers and traders. His talk, titled "Kansas before Kansas," will take place at the Trego County Historical Society Museum on Sunday, February 8, starting at 2 p.m.

As a lifelong history enthusiast, Keven has dedicated countless hours to researching and experiencing the life of Kansas prior to its statehood. His childhood adventures roaming farm fields led him to discover Native American artifacts, igniting a passion for understanding the region's ancient history. Family excursions

to historical sites and museums further fueled his fascination with this era.

For over 40 years, Keven has been actively involved with various historical organizations, including the Brotherhood of the American Mountain Men and as a founder of the Kansas Muzzle Loaders Association. He has delivered presentations at schools in south-central Kansas for many years and collaborated with the Kansas Department of Parks and Tourism and Kansas Historical sites on several programs.

In addition to his historical presentations, Keven owns a business called Bear Paw Traders, where he crafts numerous historical replicas and displays for museums and traveling exhibits across the country. Bear Paw Traders also special-

izes in a diverse collection of early Western and Native American antiques, serving a wide range of collectors and galleries throughout the country.

As part of the "Cottonwood Connections" series on Smoky Hill PBS, Keven was a guest speaker for the Trappers and Traders episode of Season 6.

They invite you to join them for this intriguing program that explores the early ways of life before Kansas became a state.

In case of inclement weather for the event, we will post any changes on our Facebook page, which is Trego County Historical Society Museum. The program is sponsored by the Trego County Historical Society and for more information call 785-743-2964

KDHE urges Kansans to protect against seasonal influenza and other respiratory illnesses

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) would like to remind Kansans to remain vigilant in their efforts to protect against seasonal influenza and other respiratory illnesses as the number of emergency department and outpatient visits for influenza-like illness is increasing in Kansas and across the United States.

A typical influenza season runs from October to May, with activity usually picking up between December and February. In Kansas, between Dec. 28, 2025, and Jan. 3, 2026, influenza accounted for 5.1% of all emergency department visits. Trends in emergency department visits in Kansas are tracking very similar to the 2024/2025 season, which was generally considered a severe influenza season. When accounting for emergency department visits for all acute respiratory illnesses, the percentage increases to 19.1% of all visits. Workbook: ESSENCE Dashboard

"The best protection we have against seasonal flu each year is vaccination," KDHE Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dereck Totten said. "There is still time to get a flu vaccine this season. The vaccine has been shown to not

only reduce the risk of getting the flu but also to protect against the potentially serious complications of the flu, especially for immunocompromised individuals."

As would be expected at this point in the season, Kansas is mostly seeing Influenza A virus circulating. A new influenza A(H3N2) virus subclade J.2.4.1, also recently renamed "H3N2 subclade K," was identified by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in August 2025. Among 436 influenza A(H3N2) viruses collected in the United States since Sept. 28, 2025, that underwent additional genetic characterization at CDC, 91.5% belonged to subclade K. Advanced testing performed by the Kansas Health and Environment Laboratories on 13 influenza A(H3) viruses received since Sept. 28, 2025, found that 92% belonged to subclade K.

Although subclade K emerged after the 2025-26 vaccine strains were chosen, early estimates of vaccine effectiveness in preventing influenza-related hospitalization suggest that the vaccine is performing as expected among both children and adults. More information on vaccine effectiveness in the United States will be shared

as sufficient data has been collected.

Along with getting the flu vaccine, below are some other precautions to consider as preventative measures when it comes to protecting against the flu and other respiratory illnesses.

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medications and overall symptoms are getting better.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective when soap and water is unavailable.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread easily this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

More prevention and treatment information can be found on the KDHE website's Influenza page.

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