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# LINCOLN SENTINEL-REPUBLICAN

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## Life-Saving Actions at Kanopolis Lake Lead to Statewide Honor

By Jyll Phillips, Lincoln-Sentinel

It was the beginning of a long holiday weekend – July 3, 2025 - an excuse to escape to a world with no worries, no schedules and no clocks. But a relaxing day at the lake turned into an adrenalin-pushing rescue mission, when Daryl Lee of Tescott spotted someone struggling in the water. Lee immediately jumped in and pulled the victim to safety.

Fourteen-year-old Regan Dalke had been enjoying time at Kanopolis Lake with her dad and her best friend when they experienced a boating accident. Regan lost her father, Jerrod Dalke, and her best friend, Khloe Heim in the accident. She would have lost her life if not for the quick-thinking Tescott man. Regan was airlifted to a Wichita hospital that night in very serious condition. She has since made a full recovery. Regan and Lee continue to see each other regularly.

According to the Ellsworth County Sheriff's Office, Lee was back camping in the same area Friday night, January 30, when sirens started blaring and first responders from all around the area paraded into the campsite. The multiple agencies that responded to the boating incident in July responded back to the lake to honor Lee. They included Mar-

quette Fire and EMS; Saline County Mounted Patrol and Rescue Squad; McPherson Fire and EMS; Great Bend Fire and EMS; Lyons Police Department; Kansas Highway Patrol; Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the US Army Corps of

Engineers. Regan Dalke and her mother were there as well as Lee was surprised with this most recent honor, Kansas Sheriff's Association Citizen of the Year for 2025.

In August, Lee received an Honorary Deputy Commission from Ellsworth County

Sheriff Kenny Bernard, complete with a shadow-box assembled by Ellsworth County Sheriff's Office employees. The US Army Corps of Engineers also presented him with the "Heartland Award" for his actions of that day.



Ellsworth County Sheriff Kenny Bernard (far right) presented Daryl Lee (center) with the Kansas Sheriff's Association Citizen of the Year for saving the life of Regan Dalke (left) at Kanopolis Lake July 3, 2025. (Photo Courtesy of Ellsworth County Sheriff Office)

## FAA Strawberries on sale until Friday

Time is running out to order fresh strawberries from Lincoln FAA. Proceeds benefit the LHS FAA Chapter. Options include ¼ flat (2 pounds) - \$12.00  
 ½ flat (4 pounds) - \$20.00  
 Full flat (8 pounds) - \$35.00  
 Order by February 6 by contacting any FAA member or email Nitsch.morgan@usd298.com.  
 Deliveries will be made around the end of February or first of March.

## Bowers announces new staff

State Senator Elaine Bowers recently announced that the members of staff who will assist her in the 2026 Legislative Session will be Legislative Office/Committee Assistant Randi Walters of Topeka and intern Bricen Benyshek of Concordia.

This will be Walters' tenth year serving with Senator Bowers. Prior to working for Senator Bowers, Walters was employed for 30 years at Southwestern Bell before working at the Capitol, where she has assisted several legislators for over 23 years.

Benyshek is a second-year undergraduate at Kansas State University in Manhattan where he is pursuing a dual interest in Engineering and Entomology. Bricen brings a strong practical background to his studies, having been raised on production agriculture. Notably, he graduated in 2024 as a dual alumnus of Concordia High School and Cloud County Community College, where he earned an Associate of Science in Agriculture.

For the 2026 Legislative Session, Senator Bowers will chair the Local Government, Transparency and Ethics Committee. Additional assignments include serving on the Judiciary, Transportation and Utilities Committees, as well as the Capitol Preservation and the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight. In addition, she also serves on the Kansas Commission for the United States Semi quinquennial to help commemorate our nation's 250th anniversary.

Senator Bowers was first elected to the Senate in 2012, representing Senate District 36. The district includes Clay, Cloud, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, Ottawa, Republic, Rooks, Russell, Smith and Washington counties. Prior to serving in the Senate, Senator Bowers served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 2007 through 2012, representing over 70,000 people in north-central, western and eastern Kansas along the Nebraska border.

Senator Bowers can be reached at Kansas State Capitol Building, Room 223-E, 300 S 10th St., Topeka KS, 66612. Email: elaine.bowers@senate.ks.gov. Phone: 785-296-7389. Or visit her website at www.kslegislature.org.



State Senator Elaine Bowers, intern Bricen Benyshek and Legislative Office/Committee Assistant Randi Walters. (Courtesy Photo)

## St. Patrick's CYO plan 3rd Annual Trivia Night

If you're looking for something fun to do for Valentine's Day, consider the St. Patrick CYO Third Annual Trivia Night special Valentine edition!

St Patrick's Parish Hall will be full of hearts and laughter Saturday, February 14. The

doors open at 5:30. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. consisting of pork tenderloin, baked potato, dessert and two drink tickets. The event is limited to adults 21 and over.

Tickets for the event are \$35 per person or \$65 per

couple. A table of 6 can be reserved for \$180. Pre-order carry-out is available at \$15 per person.

Trivia Night is a fundraising event for local CYO members to go to the national Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

The last delegation from Lincoln went to the conference In November 2025, consisting of a group of 13 youth and three sponsors from St. Patrick's.

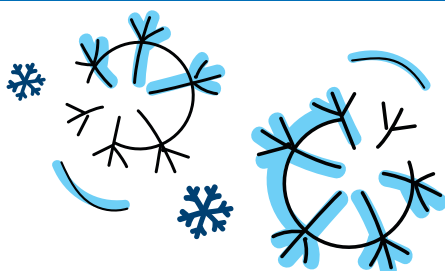
For tickets call 913-424-8408 or email saintpatrick-CYO@gmail.com.

## Local Shooters Score Big at Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Area kids show off their free throw skills at the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest, bringing home top finishes. Back Row (L-R): Hayley Wiebke, Kai Frederking, Jaxson Meitler, Coy Rathbun, Dane Bates, Kaitlyn Heinze, Olivia Borst and Hadley Wiebke. Front Row (L-R): Ryker Meier, Aiden Davis, Camden Hlad, Jordy Metz, Ray Stoppel, Kamryn Palmer, and Lennox Seehafer. (Photo by Becky Rathbun)



### Snowflake Fun Fact



Snowflakes may look white as they fall from the sky, but they're actually clear. The white appearance comes from the way light reflects and scatters off the many tiny ice crystals that make up each flake. No two snowflakes are exactly alike, and while most are only a few millimeters wide, some have been recorded at nearly 15 inches across. It's a small reminder that even winter's coldest moments can be full of fascinating detail.

### Cash Grain

Corn.....	\$3.63
Milo.....	\$3.28
Soybeans.....	\$9.54
Wheat.....	\$4.80

Cash prices courtesy of Ag Mark

## Community Calendar

### Thursday, February 5

USD 298: HS REGIONAL SCHOLAR'S BOWL; JH BB PTL TOURNAMENT @ TESCOTT  
 USD 299: HS Scholars Bowl Regional Competition @ Quinter; JH BB PTL Tourney @ TBD; 4pm HS JV (Boys only) vs. Smoky Valley Homeschool @ Salina; 4pm (G/B) Wrestling County tourney @ Leoti

### Friday, February 6

USD 298: 4:00 PM HS BB @ PIKE VALLEY; NO PK - SIT MEETING  
 USD 299: Sweetheart crowing and dance; 4pm HS BB vs. Thunder Ridge @ Sylvan

### Saturday, February 7

Lincoln: 2pm Bierock Fundraiser @ Lincoln's Shared Kitchen; 6 pm Annual Conservation Meeting @ Lincoln Jr/Sr High  
 USD 298: JH BB PTL TOURNAMENT @ TESCOTT; PIANO REGIONAL FESTIVAL; 3 pm Conservation Annual Meeting @ LJSHS  
 USD 299: 4th-6th Basketball Tournament @ Sylvan Gym; JH BB PTL Tourney @ TBD; Regional Piano Festival @ TBD

### Sunday, February 8

USD 298: 3 pm Conservation Annual Meeting @ LJSHS

### Monday, February 9

USD 298: NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice 1:00 PM NPL LEAGUE BAND-ROCK HILLS-6:00 PM CONCERT; 1:00 PM PTL SCHOLAR'S BOWL @ SYLVAN-LUCAS; USD 298 BOARD MEETING @ 6:00 P.M.  
 USD 299: No School; Teacher Inservice; 1pm JH PTL League Scholars Bowl @ Sylvan; 7pm Board of Ed Mtg

### Tuesday, February 10

USD 298: 9 am Spelling Bee; 4:00 PM HS BB VS THUNDER RIDGE  
 USD 299: 9am Lincoln County Spelling Bee @ Lincoln HS; 4pm HS BB vs. Stockton @ Sylvan

### Wednesday, February 11

USD 298: SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - 6:00 PM

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

Lincoln County Historical Society meets third Wednesday of each month @ 5 p.m.; Lincoln County Historical Museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Call 202.744.9041.  
 LCEDF meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Courthouse basement. Call 524-8954 for meeting time.  
 The Lincoln County Commission meets each Monday, and the last working day of the month, at the courthouse.



### Monday, February 9

Ham and Beans, Carrot Salad, Brownie, Ambrosia, Cornbread & Milk

### Tuesday, February 10

Meatballs, Buttered Noodles, Green Beans, Fruit, Roll & Milk

### Wednesday, February 11

Beef Tips & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Mixed Fruit, Roll & Milk

### Thursday, February 12

Smothered Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Tropical Fruit, Roll & Milk

### Friday, February 13

Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Cauliflower, Cinnamon Apples, Roll & Milk

*Menu is subject to change.*

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

**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**

# Honors Student Spotlight

## Lucas-Sylvan Elementary 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

**4.0 GPA Honor Roll**  
 6th Grade: Logan Koehn, Willow Reichel, Ryler Wacker  
 5th Grade: Emma Agler, Ghita Ait Ratbi, Rylee Bradshaw, Alex Cline, AJ Cline, Camden Hlad, Benjamin Meyer, Kamryn Palmer, Chase Nielsen, John Oltean, Arabella Ranker, Lennox Seehafer, Sophia Stone  
 4th Grade: Nora Agler, Hunter Koehn, Jacob Kratky, Reid Meitler, Lane Metcalf, Tia Mueller, Bentley Zachgo

**3.5-3.99 GPA Honor Roll**  
 6th Grade: Blayne Keith, Trey Meitler, Jesse Pahls, Acee Schneider  
 5th Grade: Addison Denning, Gannon Denning, Layna Keith, Bentley Raile, Cash Sonnier, Ray Stoppel, Joseph Kratky  
 4th Grade: Jasper Buelow, Samuel Christianson, Sofia De Loera Hernandez, Markas Green, Cael Huehl, Autumn Kuster, Lane Leonard, Axel Schneider, Kelvi Seehafer, Bentley Zachgo

*Thanks to our Sponsors*

Bank of Tescott	Meyer Tire
Citizens State Bank & Trust Co	Mity Mart
Deckert & Sons Trucking Inc	Post Rock Aviation
Farmway Credit Union	Scoular
Frederking Seed	Seirer's Clothing
G. Kyle Gwinner, Optometrist	Susan Marshall, Attorney at Law
Horizon Farm & Ranch Realty	Sylvan Sales Commission
Insurance Works	USD #299, Sylvan Unified School District
Lincoln County Hospital	Viv's Retail Liquor
Lincoln Grocery	Wilson Communications

*Congratulations*

## KSU NC/NW "Virtual" Agronomy Series RETURNS starting in February 2026

NC and NW Extension Districts and counties of K-State Extension again will be hosting an ONLINE agronomy series, "Crop Talk", slated to begin Tuesday, February 10 through Tuesday, March 10, which will highlight several topics important to crop producers. These will be on Tuesdays and each session will be held from Noon to 1:00 p.m. CST. In the NC and NW agronomy focused areas, the meetings will feature presentations and comments by K-State Extension faculty to enhance management strategies utilized by crop producers.

Our KSU extension team has vast experience in crop production and we're here to help solve and prevent production problems with reliable information. Planned topics of discussion include Understanding Flex Leases; Available Soil Water at Planting and Related Management; Wheat conditions and Breeding efforts on Mosaic Viruses; Fungicide Applications in Corn and Sorghum and Insects to watch for in the Field. There will also be time for questions between Kansas crop producers and extension specialists at each

of the sessions. NO COST, but you must register either ONLINE at [www.bit.ly/KSU-CropTalk](http://www.bit.ly/KSU-CropTalk) or call any of our offices in the Post Rock District at Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center. Once you register, a link to the ONLINE sessions will be emailed to you. CCA credits have been applied for with 1 credit for each session. For more information about the ONLINE KSU Extension NW and NC Agronomy Series, contact our K-State Extension, Post Rock District, Crop Production Agent, Sandra L. Wick.

## Student Achievements

### Fort Hays State University

#### Fall 2025 Deans' Honor Roll

To be eligible, students must have completed 12 or more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester.

**Beverly, Kansas**  
 Leann Griffith  
 Riley Still

**Lucas, Kansas**  
 Hunter Hulse

**Lincoln, Kansas**  
 Goldie Dohe  
 Sarah Schale

**Tescott, Kansas**  
 Dominic Graves

### Wichita State University

#### Fall 2025 Dean's List

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

**Lincoln, KS**  
 Alyssa N Behrens  
 Emma P Corpstein  
 Salima Lahbabi

## Letter from the Lincoln Area Humane Shelter

It is with a lot of thought and heavy hearts that we are notifying you of the closure of the Lincoln Area Humane Society.

Our membership has dwindled to three and we haven't been successful in recruiting volunteers despite our best efforts. The three active members are getting too old to do the heavy lifting of animals in traps and kennels. We have done all we can and believe this is the only solution.

We've been doing this work as a group for 15 years. Our TNR (trap, neuter, return) program spayed, neutered and gave rabies vaccine to over 200 cats in and around Lincoln. We found placement for adoption of at least 90 abandoned dogs and transported them to shelters. We took "how to care for pets" information to the grade school classes and summer library events for children. We wrote articles about pets and their care for the newspaper. We provided cat and dog food when needed.

The Humane Society wants to express our gratitude to the Sheriff's Office, City Hall, City Council, and City Employees who take care of dogs in the pound for their support of our work; and, gratitude to our many donors who made our work possible.

A special thank you to Marty and the late Marilyn Helmer who encouraged us in so many ways and provided us a place to meet at Village Lines. Also, a special thank you to members of the community who supported and encouraged our work.

Even after meeting the goals of care for the animals, there is always room to recognize the behind the scenes work that Anita has done, late night calls, trips to vacant houses for abandoned animals, transporting sick animals to vet and animals for adoption to shelters. Charlene Batchman spent endless hours sometimes calling 20 plus shelters to find placement for a dog, and writing articles about animal care and concerns for the newspaper. Charlene Griffin corresponded with our donors, organized fund raisers and took calls from people needing help with

See "Shelter" page 6

## Happy 100 Birthday Ellen Wallace!

The family of Ellen Wallace would like to invite friends & family to participate in a card shower to celebrate her 100th birthday.

*Ellen was born in rural Barnard, on February 6, 1926, the daughter of Frances & Nora O'Neil. She married Kenneth Wallace on November 13, 1948, and they lived in Barnard until moving to Minneapolis in 1958.*

The immediate family will have a celebration on Saturday, February 14

**Cards may be sent to Ellen Wallace, 303 E. Eighth St, Minneapolis, KS 67467.**



**3RD ANNUAL ST. PATRICK CYO FUNDRAISER**

*Trivia Night Valentine Edition*

**FEBRUARY 14**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Catholic Parish Hall**

**\$35 per person**  
**\$65 per couple**  
**\$180 per table of 6**

**Pre-order a carryout meal for \$15**

**RSVP to 913-424-8408 or saintpatrickCYO@gmail.com**

# Contact Information: Lincoln Sentinel-Republican

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

## OBITUARY



**Georgana "Georgie" Lorane (Hixson) Ballou**  
Apr. 8, 1941 - Jan. 25, 2026

Georgana "Georgie" Lorane (Hixson) Ballou she found serene peace on January 25, 2026, holding the hand of her dearest love and surrounded by family.

Born April 8, 1941, in Inola, Oklahoma, she entered the world small and frail yet quickly revealed a spark and determination that would define her life. With the strength and love of her parents, Wilma Jean (Stark) and George Calvin Hixson, she defied the odds from the very beginning.

In 1944, Georgie moved with her family to Kansas. While her father served his country, she helped

friends and family endure the hardships of wartime. One cherished memory from that time was selling paper flowers alongside her brother. Her lifelong love of animals and gardening also began to take root during these early years. After her father returned home, she helped her family farm, learning about and loving the land. Georgie attended grade school in Falun, Bavaria, and Hedville, then went on to attend high school in Brookville, graduating from Salina Central. Throughout her youth, she worked various jobs, including at The Crown, The Royal, and the Salina Laundries.

Georgie met Hayden Ballou while searching for a baseball under a clothesline, a simple moment that began a lifelong partnership. They were married on January 10, 1959, and together built a family grounded in love, and hard work.

A woman of many talents and boundless generosity, Georgie spent 21 years managing the poultry barn for the Tri Rivers Fair and Rodeo. She shared her sewing skills as a 4-H clothing leader and found joy in Girl Scouts, an organization that shaped her youth and later allowed her to guide others as a troop leader. Her nurturing spirit touched countless children during the years she provided childcare at All Star Lanes.

Many will remember Georgie for her time teaching Home Economics at Elmhurst Christian School. She was also a devoted PTA member for each of her children. Never one to slow down, she remained

active in EHU and the Hedville Ladies Club.

Georgie's midlife career included time at Coastal Mart, followed by 22 years at Target, where she formed lasting friendships while stocking shelves and serving customers. In retirement, she found joy working in the garden department at Lowe's. She never wanted to stop working and giving to others.

Those who knew Georgie best relied on her steady, loving advice, knowing she was always a safe place. She lived fully and attentively, often saying she slept with one eye open so she wouldn't miss a moment of life.

Georgie now joins her parents, her brother, Allen, several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and her sweet great-grandson, Hayden George Ballou, in Heaven's glory. Left to cherish her memory are her beloved husband; sisters Susan and Sharon; bonus daughter Pat Webb (Eddie); children Anna Campbell (John), David Ballou (wife), Jeanie Jorgensen (Mike), Cassie Streit (Shawn); eleven grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; and many brothers- and sisters-in-law whom she loved dearly.

A come-and-go celebration of Georgie's life will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Ryan Mortuary, 137 N. 8th St., Salina, Kansas.

Those wishing to honor Georgie may contribute to the family for a future memorial or donate a flower arrangement to a retirement home in her name.



**Allan Lee Thaumert**  
Apr. 9, 1938 - Jan. 26, 2026

Allan Lee Thaumert, 87 of Manhattan, Kansas, died on Monday, January 26, 2026, at the Via Christi Village in Manhattan.

Allan was born on April 09, 1938, in Sylvan Grove, KS, the son of Erwin and Viola (Thaete) Thaumert. He grew up on the family farm in rural Sylvan Grove, KS where he spent many years helping with the farming and ranching. He graduated from Sylvan Grove High School in the class of 1956. Allan was an outstanding athlete at Sylvan Grove where he excelled in 4 sports including baseball, basketball, football, and track.

After high school he graduated

from Kansas State University achieving his bachelor's degree in education and eventually worked to achieve his master's degree from Southwestern State Teacher's College in Weatherford, Oklahoma. While attending Kansas State, he was a letterman on the baseball team where he started at shortstop for the Wildcats. He was united in marriage to Mary Ann Reese on May 31, 1959, at the rural Immanuel Lutheran Church near Laton, KS.

Allan and Mary Ann first met through their local Lutheran Church's high school youth group functions ("Walther League"). From this union Allan and Mary Ann were blessed with five children: Troy, Todd, Becky, Tom and James. They raised their children in the Lutheran faith and provided them with a firm foundation of God's grace through Christ.

They settled in Manhattan, KS where Allan taught math and drivers education at Manhattan High School for over 30 years. During this time Allan enjoyed his children's activities and coached several of the children's little league teams.

Upon his retirement in 1994 Allan and Mary Ann moved back to the Reese family farm located north of Natoma. He enjoyed the rural setting as well as actively maintaining the homestead. Many enjoyable years were spent hosting his children and grandchildren for frequent family gatherings at "The Farm". Allan was a member of Lutherans for

Life and proud Kansas State University Alumni. He was able to follow K-state football quite closely as he worked on the football chain gang for 33 years. He loved gardening, the county fair, the circus, antiques, auctions, arrowhead hunting, war history, watching westerns.

Surviving family include his son Todd Thaumert of Manhattan, KS, daughter Becky Pancost (Jon) of Lucas, KS, son Tom Thaumert (Krista) of Manhattan, KS, son James Thaumert of Manhattan, KS; brothers Ravon Thaumert (Shirley) of Denver, CO and Leon Thaumert (Donna) of Colorado Springs, CO and 5 grandchildren: Savannah Awbrey (Nate), Reese Thaumert (Marissa), Sophie, Harlan, and Lily Pancost.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Mary Ann, and son Troy Thaumert.

A celebration of Allan's life will be held at 11 A.M. on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Peace Lutheran Church in Natoma, Kansas. Viewing will begin at 10 A.M. on Saturday at the church with family greeting guests from 10 A.M. to service time. Burial will follow at the North Lutheran Cemetery in rural north Natoma. The family invites family and friends to join them at the church for lunch immediately following the graveside service. Memorials can be made to the Peace Lutheran Church and sent in care of the mortuary. Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary of Russell, Kansas, is in charge of the funeral service arrangements.



<p><b>BETHANY CHURCH</b> 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><b>LINCOLN PARK MANOR CHAPEL</b> Morning Worship @ 9:30 am Afternoon Worship @ 2:30 pm</p>
<p><b>BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS</b> Pastor Christopher Craig Sylvan Grove, Kansas Sunday School following Worship Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am</p>	<p><b>LINCOLN UNITED METHODIST</b> Worship Service @ 10:30 am Alternate Pastor &amp; Lay Leaders provide Communion</p>
<p><b>BEVERLY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> www.beverlycommunitychurch.org Pastor Toby Flaming Sunday School @ 9:30 am Morning Worship @ 10:45 am</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> Sylvan Grove, Kansas Sunday School @ 10:00 am Church @ 11:00 am</p>
<p><b>CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 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><b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 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><b>CULVER METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Demele Eckart 401 Main Street, Culver, Ks Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am Saturday Coffee @ 8-10 am</p>	<p><b>ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 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><b>DENMARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, ELCA</b> Worship Service @ 10:30 am</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS</b> Pastor Don Haselhuhn Six and one-half miles south and 4 miles east of Lincoln Worship Service @ 9:00 am</p>
<p><b>FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 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><b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> Pastor Rod Thompson, Tescott Worship Service @ 9:00 am</p>
<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Carolyn Allen, Barnard Morning Worship @ 11:00 pm</p>	<p><b>TESCOTT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Demele Eckart Sunday School @ 10:00 am Worship @ 11:00 am</p>
<p><b>GRACE CHAPEL-HUNTER</b> Pastors Kaye &amp; Jeff Metzler Worship Service @ 9:00 am</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HUNTER</b> 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><b>LINCOLN COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 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><b>Lincoln United Methodist Church</b></p>  <p>216 N. Fourth, Lincoln Pastors: Kaye and Jeff Metzler <b>Service Times:</b> Adult Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship: 11:00 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.

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Tuesday, January 20, 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, Felicia Strahm, Garry Fuller, Tanya Paul, and Colleen Tennant.

Pursuant to K.S.A. 19-219, the chairman called for the organization of the board for the ensuing year. Kenny Meitler moved to elect Debora Smith as Chairman, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to elect Kenny Meitler as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Correspondence: midmonth accounts payable and a tax abatement. Administrators' Report: Robertson provided information from the clock tower donor regarding a potential 2026 donation; spoke with Diane Walters, Lincoln Park Manor

regarding repairs that need to be completed; will meet State Senator Elaine Bowers January 28th about presenting legislation on the sales tax question, and would also try to meet with other participants about possible grant opportunities; presented the legislation for the sales tax question and would like to discuss further ensure that he is understanding the board's desires before his meeting with Senator Bowers; visited with the KDHE regarding the health department grants and upcoming application process, noting that the state assured they would assist the county with submittal requirements; has received the results of the penetration testing and will discuss further in executive session; will attend the administrator's association meeting this week.

Public Works Project Supervisor Garry Fuller reported on department activities. A report for composting was submitted to the State and Fuller suggested that the board consider charging for these materials to offset the cost of the report submission and handling of materials. The board related that it can be a conversation with the new Public

Works Director. Fuller requested a salary increase for a couple of employees for the extra work they have been doing. The board made no decision, stating that they will wait to discuss with the new department head. The group discussed utilizing a landfill employee at the highway department on days not scheduled to work at the landfill. Commissioner Meitler suggested hiring a private contractor to help catch up projects. Fuller and Robertson discussed specifically using a private contractor to install larger culverts and drive bridge pilings. Commissioner Smith stated that she would consider the proposal, noting that the department should receive bids from qualified contractors. Robertson forwarded a road complaint received, noting that Kirkham Michael might need to assist by looking at the concern. Fuller related that the unrepaired landfill backhoe is ready to be picked up from Topeka, and the Foley Equipment representative stated that they will not honor the trade-in amount offered in 2025 for the landfill backhoe. Once the equipment is returned, the board will determine t h e

**PANCAKE DAY!**

**YOU are INVITED to Bethlehem's Annual Pancake Day**

**Sunday, February 15, 2026**

**11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parish Hall**  
308 N Indiana  
Sylvan Grove Kansas

**Serving Pancakes, Whole Hog Sausage, Scrambled or Fried Eggs, Homemade Desserts**

**Free Will Donation**  
Our mission this year is to replace the windows in the Bethlehem Lutheran School building.






## Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau - opinion Rooted in strength

Glenn Brunkow

Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher

Last week I attended Kansas Farm Bureau's Day at the Statehouse along with a couple hundred of my fellow Kansas Farm Bureau members. If you have never attended a Day at the Statehouse, I highly recommend doing so — it is truly an example of grassroots advocacy in action and proof of why Farm Bureau is so effective advocating for farmers and ranchers.

The program was exceptionally good and informative, laying out the issues of the current legislative session. Kansas Farm Bureau's action plan for the session was also laid out for all the participants. It was the culmination of our policy development from the past year that came from those same members who showed up to lobby at the Capitol.

The work Kansas Farm Bureau members did over that 24-hour period should make all of us proud. We had members from every corner of the state representing all segments of agriculture.

One theme that was repeated several times was the value of each member interacting with their elected officials. Do not get me wrong, we have the best lobbying crew, and I would not trade them for any others, but the real power of Kansas Farm Bureau is its members, and our elected officials understand that.

I watched legislators seek out Farm Bureau members during an evening reception and the next day at the Capitol. They were doing this because of the value and the power of each of the 105 county Farm Bureaus in Kansas. No other organization has that kind of grassroots in each community in Kansas.

I eavesdropped on some conversations, and we truly had the ears and attention of those elected officials. Repeatedly, I heard something along the lines of, "what are Kansas Farm Bureau's priorities this session?" Then I listened as members articulated our positions on issues important to agriculture.

Important conversations that would have been hard for our staff to have had. For one thing, it would have taken hours and days to meet with all those officials. The more important piece was the attention paid to the message. The farmers and ranchers involved in the discussion un-

See "Insight" page 6

## THE LEOPARD LEGACY- BY NIKKI FLINN

### Why Are We Not Encouraging Kids to Come Home?



Nikki Flinn  
Superintendent  
USD 298

We celebrate when our young people leave their hometowns to pursue higher education. Whether it's a community college, military, vocational program, or a four-year university, we cheer them on, proud to see them explore the world, gain new knowledge, and chase their dreams. And they should. Every student deserves the opportunity to grow, to discover themselves, and to build skills that will set them up for a lifetime of success. But what happens when they leave, graduate, and never return? What happens to the communities they once called home?

Too often, we encourage the departure, but we fail to nurture the return. We rarely ask the question: how do we make coming home appealing? How do we show our young people that the place where they grew up, the neighborhoods where they played, the schools that nurtured them, and the people who shaped them can also be the place where they build their future?

I remember being a student at Lincoln High School, a short 25 years ago and being told, "Go get an education, get out of here, and build your life!" Never once was I told, "Go get an education and then come back to Lincoln and build your life!" If we do not actively encourage and create opportunities for them to return, we risk building towns that have no future for the very people we celebrated leaving.

Our communities need young adults—not just for their energy, their ideas, and their talents—but for the families they will build. We need them to live here, to start businesses, pursue careers, and invest in the future of our schools, our volunteer organizations, and our neighborhoods. These young people are the lifeblood of our towns. Without them, we will have fewer neighbors to greet each other on the street, fewer volunteers to coach the youth sports teams, fewer contributors to the local charities, and fewer leaders to carry on the traditions and values that make our communities strong. Simply put, without encouraging them to come home, we will not have a hometown for them to come back to.

But it's not enough to just hope they

return—we must make it possible, inviting, and rewarding. That means creating career opportunities, supporting entrepreneurship, and fostering a community where young families feel welcomed and valued. It means celebrating innovation while honoring tradition, ensuring that returning home is seen not as a fallback, but as a choice—a choice to thrive, to grow, and to invest in the very place that gave them their start. We must make sure that Lincoln is not only a place where our children grew up, but a place where they WANT to live, work, and raise their families. We need to encourage them that in Lincoln you can follow any of your careers that you choose to pursue.

Encouraging young people to come home is not just about numbers or economics—it's about the heart of our community. It's about the laughter of children filling playgrounds, the energy of young adults shaping local businesses, and the continuity of families who will carry on our traditions and values. If we fail to make the transition back home enticing, supportive, and full of opportunity, we risk losing not just our youth, but the very essence of our towns.

See "Legacy" page 6

## PRAIRIE DOC BY KELLY EVANS HULLINGER, MD, FACP

### Insomnia

Difficulty sleeping is a common concern we hear about in primary care. Many of us will have trouble sleeping on occasion, but when that is a persistent pattern causing distress or functional impairment, we call it insomnia. Insomnia can mean difficulty falling asleep, difficulty maintaining sleep, or waking early unable to fall back asleep.

First and foremost, is the difficulty sleeping causing problems? If it is not resulting in problems with daily functioning, we may need to manage expectations around sleep. Not every person needs 8 hours per night, and if your imperfect sleep is perfectly tolerable, it is probably best to leave it alone. As we age, we need less hours of nighttime sleep; again, as long as you feel well during the day, that is just fine.

For those whose poor sleep is resulting in intolerable drowsiness or difficulty functioning at work or home, I have more questions. Is an acute illness or stressor contributing? Might there be another sleep disorder like sleep apnea or restless leg syndrome? Is pain, an urge to urinate, or some other physical symptom causing your awakenings? Is there underlying depression, anxiety, or other mental health concerns? Are you taking any medications or substances that might cause sleep disruption? Addressing

any of these may significantly improve sleep. Alcohol is a common culprit; often assumed to help people fall asleep, alcohol actually yields poor quality rest.

Most patients with insomnia can be helped with behavior changes alone, or "sleep hygiene." There are a few basic tenets, some more intuitive than others. First, optimize the sleep environment; ideally this means a dark, cool, quiet bedroom. Second, a consistent bedtime and wake time are very important, even on the weekends. This is particularly difficult for our patients who have jobs requiring rotating shifts. Next, find a bedtime routine which helps your brain wind down; think less screen time, and more reading, meditating, or listening to calming music.

Finally, and less intuitive to most, if you do find yourself lying in bed for 20 minutes without falling asleep, get out of bed, try a calming routine over again, then get back into bed. More time spent not sleeping in your bed is more time your brain spends learning the bed is a place to be awake. Furthermore, it fuels anxiousness when we lie awake yearning for sleep, so it is best to break that cycle.

I see a lot of people tracking sleep with their smartwatch or other wearable device, and my advice is to be aware of potential pitfalls. We don't

have good evidence that the information all devices provide on sleep is accurate, and for most people tracking those statistics actually tends to increase anxiety around sleep which may worsen the problem.

Have you followed all the above advice but still suffer from insomnia? The gold standard treatment is cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) provided by a mental health professional. Beyond that we do have pharmacologic options, but medications for sleep can be fraught with potential problems, especially for our patients over age 65. Even some over-the-counter sleep medications can have significant risks in older patients, so please use caution and talk to your primary care provider.

Dr. Kelly Evans Hullinger practices internal medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://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, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

## POST ROCK EXTENSION DISTRICT

### Now is the time to have a Farmland Transition Plan!

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

"Mother Nature" is really bringing us some winter temperatures and weather! We hope that you all are staying safe and well! Now is the time to reflect on memories, discuss your family farm operations and even visit about plans in the future for sustaining your family farm.

The Kansas producer's average age is 58, indicating there will be a major transfer of farm ownership throughout the next 20 years. To ensure the successful transition of farm ownership and management across generations, it is essential to have a contingency plan in case the "what if" situations happen such as an unexpected injury or passing. Developing and communicating these plans to family members can be a challenge; however, the reward of sustaining the well-being of your family is worth the effort. It is important to regularly discuss farm succession and estate planning with your parents, children, grandchildren, and other appropriate stakeholders.

So when do I need to start working on my farm contingency plan? The family farm is a vital aspect of American industry and a significant contributor to the economy. But maintaining a thriving farm opera-

tion is no small task, given the level of financial commitment, opportunity and risk associated with agriculture and agri-business. Few family farming operations survive an unexpected change to the management ownership of their farming business as well as a family crisis situation and still remain profitable. So the answer to the question on when to start planning? As soon as possible even if it is several years in the future.

The simple goal is to make family communications about the future of the farm easier, more satisfying, and more effective for family members of all ages. A greater understanding of the role of communication in farm transition planning can help farm families develop workable contingency plans that result in productive family businesses while maintaining family relationships.

Did you know that K-State Research and Extension has a program called, the Kansas Agricultural Mediation services or also known as KAMS that has been available to farm families for over 25 years to help with agricultural legal matters and your financial questions including farm succession? KAMS connects producers with the right resources for any of your agricultural issues or concerns. The initial contact is with a toll free number at 1-800-321-3276 or 1-800-321-FARM!

From this contact the staff will direct your questions and inquiries to the most appropriate specialists depending on your situation. Email can also be used with [kams@ksu.edu](mailto:kams@ksu.edu) and their website is [www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams).

KSRE also has several excellent publications available on our Ag manager website under the Business Planning section, in helping farm families start the process of transition planning. One such publication is the "12 steps to Keep the Family Farming". This KSU publication is available either online or at any of our Post Rock Extension District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

For more information on "Farm Transition Planning", stop by or call me at any office of the Post Rock Extension District in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

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

## Farmers & Ranchers Livestock Commission Co.

Total for the Week - Cattle - 674

Bulls - \$190 - \$200 Cows - \$164 - \$175

Strs		Hftrs	
300-400	NO TEST	300-400	NO TEST
400-500	\$500.00-512.00	400-500	\$470.00-480.00
500-600	\$495.00-505.00	500-600	\$376.00-377.00
600-700	\$435.00-443.00	600-700	\$381.00-393.00
700-800	\$380.00-389.00	700-800	\$320.00-331.00
800-900	\$345.00-354.75	800-900	\$305.00-314.00
900-1000	\$300.00-310.00	900-1000	NO TEST

### Early Consignments for Thursday, February 5th

**Sale: 10 a.m.:** 110 s&h, 450-650, wean 50 days, vacc, open; 55 blk hftrs, 600-850, long wean, vacc, open, Cow Camp sired; 130 blk/bwf str, 750-850, home raise, wean Nov.1, fall vacc; 20 blk hftrs, 600-650, home raise, wean Nov.1, fall vacc; 68 blk hftrs, 800, ltw; 35 red angus hftrs, 700-800, home raise, long wean, fall vacc; 65 blk str, 750-850, home raise, long wean, vacc; 65 hftrs, 775-825, no sort; plus many more by sale time.

### Early consignments for Wean/Vacc sale, February 17:

**Bred Heifers:** 30 blk bred hftrs, bred hereford, March calvers, complete vacc; 120 bwf hftrs, Ft. Pierre origin, off 2 ranches, calve March 20, AI to Broadrange, clean up with Green Garden bulls; 7 wf/blk hftrs, all AI'd to angus bulls; 8 bred hftrs, 1st/2nd calvers; plus more by sale time.

**Heifer Pairs:** 4+4 heifer pairs; plus more by sale time.

**Cows/Cow Pairs:** 50 blk cows, 4-8 years, bred blk/gelbvi Optimiser, calve March 10; 15 aged cows, bred blk; 20 red/charX cows, 3-6 years, bred to Fink or Bar U Copperhead bulls; 20 blk/bwf cows, 4-5 years, bred angus, heavy bred; 12 young spring bred cows; 12 running age cows, March calvers; 35 mix cows, older, bred blk, heavy spring calvers; plus more by sale time.

### Cow Sales

Tuesday, February 17 (11 am)

Tuesday, March 17 (11 am)

For a complete list of cattle for all sales check out our website at: [www.fandrive.com](http://www.fandrive.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

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BECKY RATHBUN DESIGN	PAGINATION

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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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	High	Low	Rain
1-27	26	9	
1-28	30	7	
1-29	41	21	
1-30	29	23	
1-31	25	-7	
Total Moisture Jan 1.41 from 6" snow			
2-1	19	12	
2-2	57	22	

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**Mark E. Luce, D.C.** Mondays & Saturdays  
  
 102 E. Elm Street  
 Lincoln, KS 67455  
 Call for an appointment.  
 785-524-4371

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Lincoln County Historical Society**  
 Hours: Wed. - Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. | Sat. 10 a.m - 2 p.m.  
 785-524-9997 | [directorlchm1@gmail.com](mailto:directorlchm1@gmail.com)  
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*Appointments and Walk-Ins accepted at both Clinics*

**Legal Notice**

(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, February 4, 2026)

**Resolution No. 2026-05 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS,

**Section 1.** Pursuant to K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,223, the Board of County Commissioners expressed its intent to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program.

**Section 2.** Lincoln County has been designated a Rural Opportunity Zone pursuant to K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,222. As of July 1, 2025, the County population was 2,928 as certified by the Kansas Department of Revenue.

**Section 3.** Lincoln County Commissioners hereby obligate Lincoln County to participate in the ROZ student loan repayment program as provided by K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,223 for a period of five years, which shall be irrevocable.

**Section 4.** Lincoln County agrees to pay in equal shares with the State of Kansas the outstanding student loan balance of any resident individual for five years if the resident individual meets the terms of qualification provided by the State of Kansas in K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,223, and the appropriate rules and regulations. The number of qualified resident individuals receiving such payments will be subject to the availability of funds.

**Section 5.** Pursuant to K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,223, financial contributions by the State of Kansas shall be subject to any restrictions imposed under applicable appropriation acts enacted by Kansas Legislature. As required under Senate Bill 125 from the 2025 Kansas Legislative Session Laws, the Lincoln County population was 15,000 or less as of the 2020 census.

**Section 6.** Lincoln County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, and Foundations for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. Sponsored Applicants must meet all qualifications of the ROZ program. All sponsorships will be subject to ROZ student loan repayment rules and regulations.

**Section 7.** The maximum student loan balance for each qualified resident individual to be repaid jointly by Lincoln County and the State of Kansas shall be \$15,000 over a term of five years.

**Section 8.** Lincoln County shall allocate \$6,000 a year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to qualified resident individuals. Lincoln County shall revise its ROZ budget on an annual basis submitting a new Resolution to the State of Kansas by January 30th each year. Lincoln County shall submit their obligation in full to the Department of Commerce before the first day of October each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper and shall be in effect from and after its date of publication.

Adopted this 26th day of January 2026 by the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners, Lincoln County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS

/s/ Debora Smith, Chairman  
 /s/ Kenny Meitler, Vice-Chairman  
 /s/ Leon Hart, Member  
 Attest: /s/ Dawn M. Harlow, County Clerk

**Legal Notice**

(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, February 4, 2026)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT**

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, ) Case No. LC-2025-CV-000001  
 )  
 ) Chapter 60  
 vs. ) Title to Real  
 Estate Involved )  
 ESTATE OF TAMARA NEWCOM, )  
 DECEASED, et. al., )  
 )  
 Defendants. )

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Lincoln County, Kansas, in the case above numbered, the undersigned Sheriff of Lincoln County, Kansas, directed, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand at the Front Courthouse Steps of the Lincoln County Courthouse, Lincoln, Kansas, on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. of said day, the following described real estate situated in the County of Lincoln, State of Kansas, to-wit:

LOT 15 IN BLOCK 9 OF THE EAST PART OF FAIRMOUNT ADDITION TO THE CITY OF LINCOLN CENTER, LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS, including one (1) 2010 CMH SARATOGA Y Manufactured Home with VIN CBH020755TX.

Commonly known as 126 E. Center Street, Lincoln, KS 67455 (the "Real Property").

to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court.

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF  
 DUSTIN FLORENCE

Submitted by:  
 SANDBERG PHOENIX & von GONTARD P.C.

Scott D. Mosier, KS# 23783  
 701 Market Street, Suite 600  
 St. Louis, MO 63101  
 314-231-3332  
 FAX: 314-241-7604  
 HYPERLINK "mailto:smosier@sandbergphoenix.com"smosier@sandbergphoenix.com

Michele M. O'Malley, KS# 20760  
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 Kansas City, MO 64112  
 Tel: 816-627-5546  
 Fax: 816-627-5532  
[momalley@sandbergphoenix.com](mailto:momalley@sandbergphoenix.com)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
 SANDBERG PHOENIX & von GONTARD P.C. IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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**Misc.**

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**Misc.**  
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 STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-833-928-5491 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

**Misc**  
 INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$10,000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-770-0339

**Misc**  
 AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available.

Call 1-833-889-4107 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

**Misc**  
 WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1451 Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

**Misc**  
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## Commission/ from page 3

next step, as the equipment still has an outstanding balance under the lease purchase agreement. Fuller related that the Noxious Weed employee would like to meet with the commissioners to discuss upcoming classes and plans for the upcoming spraying season. The group discussed hiring a part-time employee to mow this summer to help free up staff time for other projects, with Fuller noting that some of the mowers need to be replaced.

Tanya Paul, DVACK, provided statistical information and read two proclamations for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to approve January to be recognized as Human Trafficking month, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to proclaim January as Stalking Awareness Month, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing transportation department evaluation, 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 Colleen Tennant present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 9:45 a.m. Time out: 10:00 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:00 a.m., with Tennant stating that she will contact the store to obtain some information.

Transportation Bus Director Colleen Tennant related that the two steps on the Dodge minivan will need to be replaced. The board agreed to take it to a local shop for repair.

Debora Smith moved to approve midmonth accounts payable and taxes for longevity in the amount of \$78,614.07, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve a tax abatement in the amount of \$2,260.08, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried.

Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm was present to discuss applicants for the various open positions. 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: 10:10 a.m. Time out: 10:20 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:20 a.m. with no action taken. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing Public Works 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 Leon Hart, Motion carried. Time in: 10:23 a.m. Time out: 10:48 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:48 a.m. with no action taken. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing Public Works staff, 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: 10:53 a.m. Time out: 11:08 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:08 a.m. with no action taken. The board requested that second interviews for the Public Works Director position be scheduled for Friday, beginning at 2:30 p.m., if applicants are available. Strahm will make contact with the applicants and notify the board.

Administrators' Report: language cited in the sales tax legislation wording was created so that future proceeds and any excess proceeds not needed to cover a bond payment can be used toward projects that can help reduce property tax; will speak to Brett Wilkinson, Kirkham Michael about being the construction manager for bridge replacement project OS 109, as retired Director Dale Hlad had originally agreed to serve in that role; KDOT has assigned a new bridge number of OS 65;

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for five minutes for the purpose of discussing matters relating to security measures that protect against cybersecurity penetration results, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(12)(C) to discuss matters relating to security measures, if the discussion of such matters at an open meeting would jeopardize such security measures, that protect a public body or agency, public building or facility or the information system of a public body or agency, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 11:55 a.m. Time out: 12:00 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:00 p.m. with no action taken. The board discussed the following old business. Recycling Center: reviewed the contract with Slechta Enterprises and discussed whether moving the bailer to the landfill was an option by adding a part-time employee to take care of recycling. Robertson will pose questions to Tony Lamia concerning current operations. Lease Agreements for county-owned property: The board would like to locate the electronic copy of the previous lease agreement for county-owned property. Due to the County Attorney not providing or responding to

inquiries, Commissioner Smith agreed to make changes utilizing the previous agreements. Board members agreed to view the landfill backhoe with Robertson once it is returned. Board members requested that public works get bids for fuel transports.

Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the January 12th and January 15th meetings as presented, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

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 Monday, January 26, 2026.

January 23, 2026  
The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, January 23, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 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 Public Works Director position.

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

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for thirty 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: 2:25 p.m. Time out: 2:55 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 2:55 p.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: 3:12 p.m. Time out: 3:42 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 3:42 p.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 Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 2:55 p.m. Time out: 3:05 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 3:05 p.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for thirty 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: 3:12 p.m. Time out: 3:42 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 3:42 p.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: 3:42 p.m. Time out: 3:52 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 3:52 p.m. with no action taken.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2025.

## Subscribe at JLSgroup.com for additional online content

## Shelter/ from page 2

their pets. The remaining donations we have received from all our generous donors will be distributed to 501c3 Animal Shelters

we have worked with in compliance with the dissolution of our 501c3 organization. Again, thank you to all who helped us care for and save the animals.

## Insight/ from page 4

derstand the policy they are lobbying because they helped develop it in response to their experiences navigating current laws and regulations every day.

We all know we cannot be at the Capitol each day the legislature is in session, and that is why our staff are so critical, but it is the personal relationship between voters and elected officials that makes a visit from a member so important. It is the informed, involved members that make Kansas Farm Bureau so effective, and this is why Day at the Statehouse is so important.

While Day at the Statehouse is important, it is equally important that members reach out to their elected representatives to let them know what issues are important to them. Kansas Farm Bureau is as strong as its members and, from what I witnessed last week, we are rooted in strength.

"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.

## Legacy/ from page 4

We owe it to our children, our grandchildren, and the generations yet to come to build communities that are worthy of their return. We owe it to them to make Lincoln a place where success is possible, families are celebrated, and dreams can be realized without leaving the town that shaped them. We need to encourage kids to come home after college and show them that Lincoln is

the ONLY place call home! A place where our children don't just grow up, but where they choose to grow old, raise their families, and shape the next generation of Lincoln citizens. Because the truth is simple: a town is only as strong as the people who call it home, and we need our young people to come back, stay, and help us write the next chapters of Lincoln's story.

### TUBBS & SONS FORD SALES, INC.

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 <b>2024 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4x4, White w/ Gray Slate Cloth, 7.3L V-8, FX4, Sprayed In Bedliner, 5th Prep Package, Trailer Tow Mirrors, Grille Guard, Local One Owner Trade, 31K Miles #01278</b> <b>Fresh Arrival</b>	 <b>2023 Ford F350 Crew Cab XLT 4x4, White w/ Medium Slate Cloth, 6.7L Turbo Diesel, Trailer Brake Controller, 3.31 Elock Axle, Uplifter Switches, One Owner, Roof Clearance Lights, 75K Miles #05418</b> <b>Fresh Arrival</b>
 <b>2025 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat, Agate Black Metallic w/ Slate Leather, 3.5L Eco Boost, Twin Panel Moonroof, Tow/Haul Package, FX4 off Road, 178 Miles #05530</b> <b>Fresh Arrival</b>	 <b>2022 Ford F150 Lightning Platinum, White Platinum w/Tuxedo Black Leather, All Electric, Extended Range Battery, Blue Cruise, Navigation, 63K Miles #06224</b> <b>Fresh Arrival</b>
 <b>2022 Ford Escape SE AWD, White w/ Sandstone Cloth, 1.5L Eco boost, Rear Spoiler, Cruise, Rear View Camera, Mini Spare, Rear Parking Sensor, Power Windows, Power Locks, A/C, 13K Miles #12566</b> <b>\$21,850</b>	 <b>2023 Lincoln Corsair Reserve II AWD, Pristine White w/Ebony Leather, 2.0L, Jet Package, Panoramic Vista Roof, Co-Pilot 360 2.1, Front &amp; Rear Sensors, 25K Miles #13460</b> <b>\$36,850</b>
 <b>2022 Ford Expedition Timberline 4dr 4x4, Star White Tri-Coat w/ Deep Cypress Leather, 3.5L Eco Boost, Power Liftgate, Roof Rack, 73K Miles #36384</b> <b>\$46,850</b>	 <b>2023 Nissan Altima, White w/ Black Leather, 4 Cylinder, Sunroof, Tech Pack, Heated Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Navigation, 25K Miles #38061</b> <b>\$24,850</b>
 <b>2016 Ford F150 XLT Sport Supercrew, Black w/ Black/Red Cloth, 3.5 V6 Eco Boost, Special Edition XLT Sport, 20" Premium Dark Tarnished Wheels, 104K Miles #40077</b> <b>\$25,850</b>	 <b>2021 Buick Encore AWD GX, Red w/ Black Leather, 1.3L Sunroof, Heads Up Display, Memory Heated Seats, Aluminum Wheels, Satellite Radio, Onstar, 108K Mile #46478</b> <b>\$13,850</b>
 <b>2022 Ford Bronco 2 Door 4x4, Oxford White w/ Black Cloth, 2.3L 4 Cyl. Eco Boost, Removable Hard Top, 6 Speed Manual Transmission, 5K Miles #47290</b> <b>\$33,850</b>	 <b>2023 Ford F150 Supercrew Raptor, Code Orange w/Ebony Leather, 3.5L EcoBoost High Output, Raptor Carbon Package, 56K Miles #46608</b> <b>\$63,850</b>
 <b>2020 Infiniti QX80 4dr SUV, Silver Metallic w/ Black Leather, 5.6L V-8, Leather Trim, 3rd Row Seating, Power Sunroof, Heated/Cooled Seats, 97K Miles #53110</b> <b>\$24,850</b>	 <b>2011 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4WD, Red w/ Gray Cloth, 3.5L Eco Boost, 3.5L Lrd Slip, Trailer Tow Package, Keyless Entry Pad, XLT Chrome Package, Sprayed In Bedliner, 177K Miles #65170</b> <b>\$11,850</b>
 <b>2022 Ram 2500 Mega Cab Big Horn, Silver Metallic w/ Black &amp; Diesel Grey Premium Cloth, 6.7L I-6 Cummins Diesel, Heated Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 62K Miles #82429</b> <b>\$48,850</b>	 <b>2023 Ford F150 Supercrew Limited 4WD, Black w/Admiral Blue Leather, Twin Panel Moonroof, Heated/Ventilated Front Seats, Heated Back Seats, Adaptive Cruise, Memory Seats, 69K Miles #88513</b> <b>\$48,850</b>
 <b>2021 Ram 2500 4dr 4x4 Mega Cab, Pearl White w/ Tan &amp; Brown Leather, 6.7L 8 Cylinder Cummins Diesel, Tow Technology Package, Heated/Cooled Seats, 64K Miles #92940</b> <b>\$53,850</b>	

## HELP WANTED

### Wilson Communications

#### Full Time Customer Service Representative

Wilson Communications has an immediate opening for a full time Customer Service Representative.

The duties of this position include assisting customers with fiber-to-the-home services: local telephone service and broadband Internet service; processing customer payments, along with order taking, promoting, selling services and scheduling.

The position requires customer service experience, telephone etiquette, online posting/email etiquette, verbal and written communication skills, PC skills with the ability to learn proprietary software, the ability to manage multiple tasks, and working with various departments. The environment is customer focused, team-oriented, fast-paced, with attention to detail.

Please send a cover letter and resume to Wilson Communications, Attn Human Resources, PO Box 190, Wilson KS 67490-0190; drop it by the office at 2504 Avenue D in Wilson; or email to mary.zorn@wilsoncom.net. Wilson Communications offers competitive compensation, excellent benefits and is an equal opportunity employer.



### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

6		19	27
	8	11	22
15	1		16
24	11	30	

0	1	15
11	8	3
61	2	9

Solution

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1778:** New York becomes the third state to ratify the Articles of Confederation.

**1840:** The signing of the Treaty of Waitangi establishes New Zealand as a British colony.

**1951:** The Canadian Army enters combat in the Korean War.

### Holiday FACT:

This holiday occurs each winter and is widely celebrated among Asian communities.

Answer: Chinese/Lunar New Year

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

R F E I H S E R O

Answer: Fire Horse

### NEW WORD

#### LANTERN

a lamp with a transparent case

### How they say that in...

- English:** Dragon
- Spanish:** Dragón
- Italian:** Drago
- French:** Dragon
- German:** Drache

### Did You Know?

The Chinese New Year is a 15-day festival that is very important for bringing families together in celebration and to foster good luck.



### Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Chinese lanterns

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# NPL TOURNAMENT CONCLUDED SATURDAY

*Strong showings by Sylvan-Lucas boys (2nd) and Lincoln girls (4th)*



The Sylvan-Lucas boys basketball team poses for a photo following the NPL championship game against St. John's-Tipton on Saturday. The Mustangs earned a second-place finish in tournament play. (L-R): Tevis Dohl, Cooper Johnson, Cody Charvat, Carter Johnson, Tristan Keith, Zayne Maupin, Braden Nelson, Cai Labertew, Vance Dohl, Isaac Schultz and Lane Brokes. (Photo courtesy of Kendra Johnson)

The Lady Leopards are pictured following their third-place matchup with Osborne at the NPL Tournament, where Lincoln finished fourth overall. Back Row (L-R): Head Coach Carcy Couse, Emma Suelter, Alison Rosebrook, Tenley Buttenhoff, Chloe Helus, Tennyson Donley, Katelyn Davis, Lily Behrens, Hadley Wiebke and Asst. Coach Mindy Wiebke. Front Row (L-R): Nayalie Polly, Kaylee Obermueller, Hazel Metz, Alyssa Lopez, Izabell Dail and Jayden Meyer. (Photo courtesy of Sara Timson)



Lincoln senior Alyssa Lopez fights for the ball against an Osborne opponent in tournament play at the NPL Tournament. (Photo by Sara Timson)



Locking in on defense, Tescott's Jace Krone guards an opponent in NPL tournament. (Photo by Lori Spear)



Working inside, Sylvan-Lucas player Braden Nelson goes up for a shot beneath the basket in tournament play. (Photo by Lori Spear)



Scanning the floor, Sylvan-Lucas' Cody Charvat delivers a pass during tournament action. (Photo by Lori Spear)



Sylvan-Lucas' Kenzley Frederking focuses at the line while shooting a free throw. (Photo by Lori Spear)



Positioned in the paint, Sylvan-Lucas player Lauren Brokes controls the ball beneath the basket. (Photo by Lori Spear)



Midair and on the attack, Lincoln's Xavier Miller heads to the basket during matchup against Rock Hills. (Photo by Becky Rathbun)

## Commerce Launches Grant to Promote Rural Opportunities in Kansas

TOPEKA – Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland today announced the launch of the WorKS: Public Broadcasting Grant. The new grant opportunity has \$500,000 available for Kansas public broadcasting stations to produce original, educational content highlighting rural workforce opportunities, remote work readiness, and emerging technologies that are transforming how Kansans live and work in rural communities.

“We’re growing our workforce and bringing new technologies and opportunities to all parts of the state — with a special emphasis on our small, rural communities,” Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. “Part of that focus means creating opportunities for our public broadcasting stations to bring awareness to available tools and promote the innovation happening all across the state.”

Eligible applicants are licensed public broadcasting radio or television stations that serve Kansas communities.

The grant funding will support projects that create educational or documentary-style content that address one or more of the following themes:

- Emerging technologies in rural economic development

- Remote work readiness; or
- Youth and the future of workforce in rural communities

The goal of this new initiative is to create at least one broadcast-quality program or series on television, radio or other digital format — accompanying digital content that can be shared online on podcasts, online series or social media shorts. Successful projects also will have a public engagement plan and be able to generate a brief impact summary after the program is released.

The WorKS program will be administered by the Office of Rural Prosperity at the Kansas Department of Commerce. The application window will be open until 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 20, with award announcements expected in April.

The Office of Rural Prosperity will host office hours from 10 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday from February 5 through March 19. To register for the office hours, visit [kansascommerce.gov/orp/](https://www.kansascommerce.gov/orp/).

For additional information about the WorKS Public Broadcasting Grant program, visit [kansascommerce.gov/2026/01/commerce-launches-grant-to-promote-rural-opportunities-in-kansas/](https://www.kansascommerce.gov/2026/01/commerce-launches-grant-to-promote-rural-opportunities-in-kansas/).

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 the Quality Places Division:

Established in 2024, the Quality Places Division at the Kansas Department of Commerce exists to improve quality of life in communities across the state through various programs and services. The Kansas Department of Commerce understands the immense role played by strong communities in economic development and prioritizes investments in people and communities as major contributors to the overall strength of the Kansas economy. To learn more, visit [www.kansascommerce.gov/qpd/](https://www.kansascommerce.gov/qpd/)

## How corn changed itself and then changed everything else

About 10,000 years ago, a weedy grass growing in Mexico possessed a strange trait known as a “jumping gene” and transformed itself into a larger and more useful grass — the cereal grass that we would come to know as maize and then corn. Join Cynthia Clampitt for this Zoom-only presentation as she shares how this grain would transform the Americas — from rescuing a few early settlers to creating the Midwest to building the world we know. Today, corn is more important than ever. “Without corn, North America — and most particularly modern, technological North America — is inconceivable,” writes Margaret Visser in her classic work *Much Depends on Dinner*. Cynthia Clampitt is a writer, speaker, food historian, and author of *Midwest Maize: How Corn Shaped the U.S. Heartland*.

As Cynthia Clampitt lives in Illinois, this free presentation is offered via Zoom only, Thursday, February 5, 5:30-6:30 pm. Register for your Zoom link at [www.smokyhillmuseum.org](https://www.smokyhillmuseum.org).

The Smoky Hill Museum is a nationally accredited history museum, in the heart of downtown Salina, Kansas. This FREE museum is open Tuesday-Friday 11-5, Saturday 10-5. Also, be sure to stop by the Museum Store for a wide variety of regional and Kansas products, local artwork and gifts for all ages.

For needed accommodations, please call Nona Miller at 309-5776 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Every effort will be made to accommodate known disabilities. For material or speech access, please call at least 5 working days prior to the event.

## Power of Processes Workshop Series

Many small businesses—especially in rural areas—struggle with inefficiency, burnout, and the challenges that come from operating without clear systems. This new online workshop series from the Kansas Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Fort Hays State University is a 4-part series designed to help small businesses address those challenges head on.

The Power of Processes is a practical and accessible workshop series every Wednesday throughout February. Each session is held at 9:00 AM via Zoom on February 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Classes are only \$5 making it affordable for busy business owners to attend from anywhere.

This series will help you take control of your business instead of your business controlling you! [www.kansasbdc.net/training](https://www.kansasbdc.net/training)

## SIGNS Grant for downtown retail & restaurant businesses

A new round of the Supporting Innovative Growth through New Signage (SIGNS) grant from the KS Dept of Commerce provides matching funds to help downtown businesses improve their signage. The program supports communities by upgrading storefronts for multiple businesses at once, recognizing that clear, attractive and strategically designed signage plays a critical role in helping customers spend more money locally.

Communities are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 per application. Each funded community must complete signage improvements for at least three separate retail or restaurant businesses. Eligible expenses include design, fabrication, lighting, installation and artist fees.

If you are interested in participating in the SIGNS grant program, please contact Kelly Gourley, LCEDF Director, by Monday, February 16th, to be included in an application.

[www.kansascommerce.gov/qpd/signs/](https://www.kansascommerce.gov/qpd/signs/)

## We Kan Conference

Wednesday, April 2 in Newton

The theme is Creating the Choir. Learn how we can invite future community members to be rural by choice, and expand the ways we invest in the places we love. [kansassampler.org/](https://kansassampler.org/)

## Salina Rescue Mission Needs List

Items needed at the Salina Rescue Mission this month include:

- Antacids
- Toothpaste
- Cough Drops
- Cold Medicine (alcohol free)
- Sharps Containers (1 quart)

Donations may be delivered seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to the Mission located at 1716 Summers Road in Salina.

Prefer to shop online? Check out our Amazon Wishlist at <https://a.co/eKVZzaS> to send items directly to the Mission.

Thank you for caring for our homeless neighbors — your support makes a lasting impact!

## Commerce Launches Grant to Support Innovation, Incubator Spaces in Small Communities

TOPEKA – Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland today announced the launch of the Downtown Revive & Thrive: Rehabilitation for Innovation and Incubator Spaces program. There is a total of \$500,000 available in funding for Kansas communities with populations of 5,000 or less for projects that result in functional business incubator spaces or facilities designed for temporary retail or restaurant operations.

“Rural communities are hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship but often do not have enough financial resources to maximize their economic potential,” Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. “This program will support the rehabilitation of spaces, especially in our state’s historic downtown buildings, for communities to activate underutilized assets and boost their local economies.”

Rural downtowns are experiencing an increase in vacant and underutilized properties, many of which

are historic buildings in dire need of rehabilitation. At the same time, there is a strong demand for spaces that entrepreneurs can use to test products, develop commercial concepts and pilot new retail or restaurant ventures.

The program is designed to support projects that repurpose existing infrastructure to create spaces and provide equipment for pop-up retail and restaurants that drive economic growth and contribute vibrancy to communities.

The Revive & Thrive grant program is administered by the Kansas Office of Rural Prosperity at the Department of Commerce. The application window will be open until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. Grant awards will be announced in April.

The Office of Rural Prosperity will host office hours from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. every Thursday, January 29 through March 5. To sign up, visit [https://us-02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/PXyqwHVgQya9X7zKAn5j\\_A#](https://us-02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/PXyqwHVgQya9X7zKAn5j_A#/) registration.

For additional information about the Downtown Revive & Thrive program, visit <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/downtown-revive-and-thrive/>.

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.

## CONSUMER ALERT

### Fake “Federal Court Summons” Emails Delivering Malware

TOPEKA – (Jan. 28, 2026) – Kansas Attorney General Kobach is warning consumers to be vigilant regarding a sophisticated email scam impersonating the U.S. District Court.

“Kansans should never respond to unsolicited emails claiming to be official court summons—these are sophisticated scams designed to steal personal information or infect devices with malware. State and federal courts do not serve legal documents via email, and clicking links or opening attachments in these fraudulent messages can have serious consequences. My office is committed to protecting consumers from these deceptive tactics, and I urge anyone who receives such an email to report it so we can hold these criminals accountable,” Kobach said.

The Kansas Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division has received reports of Kansans receiving

emails with subject lines such as “Legal Compliance Required: Court Case #USDC-2026-[Number].” These emails fraudulently claim that the recipient is being “formally served with a summons in a civil action” and threaten a default judgment if the recipient does not respond immediately.

What to do if you receive this type of email:

- Do not reply: Do not click any links, open any attachments, or reply to the sender. This is a trick. The document or link provided is likely malicious and designed to infect your device with malware.
- Know the process: The U.S. District Court does not serve initial summonses via email. Official service is strictly conducted via the U.S. Postal Service (certified mail) or a process server.

- Verify the information independently: If you are concerned a legal case actually exists, contact the Clerk of the Court directly using a phone number found on the official court website, not the phone number listed in the email.
- Check the sender: Pay close attention to the sender’s email address. Scammers often “spoof” legitimate organizations or use .org extensions to bypass spam filters. A legitimate email from a federal court will always end in .gov, never .org or .com.

Report it:

- Forward the email to the Federal Trade Commission at [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov).
- File a complaint with the Kansas Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at [www.ag.ks.gov](https://www.ag.ks.gov).

Send your stories, news and information to:

[lincolnsnews@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnsnews@gmail.com)

## Tornado-forecast system can increase warning lead times, study finds

By KU News

LAWRENCE — Researchers at the University of Kansas have shown the National Severe Storms Laboratory's Warn-on-Forecast System (WoFS) has potential to help weather forecasters issue warnings to emergency managers and the general public well before tornado formation. Their study appears in the peer-reviewed journal *Weather and Forecasting*.

The current lead time on issuing tornado warnings is about 15 minutes. The difference could save lives and property across the Great Plains (the classic "Tornado Alley") and other areas like the tornado-prone Southeast.

"Right now, when we do any kind of warnings or forecasts of tornadoes and severe weather, we use a warn-on-detection paradigm," said co-author David Rahn, professor of geography & atmospheric studies at KU. "If we see rotation in real time on radar, or if a storm spotter reports that a tornado is happening, that is when warnings are issued. Typically, we know severe weather is coming days in advance. Three or four days out, we may know Kansas is going to have some sort of severe weather outbreak. As we get closer, we refine the forecast as models update. We narrow things down to watches, but we do not warn until danger is imminent or occurring."

The idea behind the WoFS system is to increase lead time by not just warning on detection, but warning on predictions and forecasts of the event, according to Rahn. Today's tornado warnings rely on radar data and regional spotters. By contrast, WoFS synthesizes observational data in real time and runs high-resolution simulations to gauge uncertainties and produce guidance for tornado and severe weather threats well before they form.

"The goal is to increase lead times well beyond the typical 15 minutes," he said. "In some cases, this system can push lead times up to an hour before the event actually occurs."

As of today, the WoFS system is in the experimental phase. Rahn and his colleagues analyzed 41 supercells resulting in reports of tornadoes of at least EF1 (on the Fujita scale for tornado strength) or non-tornadic "significant hail" on the Great Plains. They aimed to determine the specific characteristics that could help determine if a storm resulted in a tornado or was just a dangerous supercell with large hail.

"The environment has to be just right to produce a tornado," Rahn said. "One major finding is that the size and extent of pockets of environmental factors are better indicators than just maximum values. If you only look at a single maximum value, you may not see differences between tornadic and non-tornadic storms. But if you look at larger, well-defined areas of enhanced storm-relative helicity, those are markers of better-developed storms, which have a higher chance of tornado genesis."

The KU researcher said storm-relative helicity is a low-level corkscrew motion fed into the storm.

"It's like a spiraling football that, when it encounters the storm updraft, gets tilted vertically," Rahn said. "That vertical rotation is what tornadoes tap into. The stronger and more extensive that motion is, the more likely a tornado becomes."

Other factors that increased the likelihood of tornado genesis include lower cloud bases, stronger low-level wind shear and small pockets of enhanced rotation near the storm's inflow region.

Because WoFS models these exact parameters at very fine spatial scales, they become signals of tornado formation up to an hour before a tornado forms.

The end users of WoFS will be forecasters with the National Weather Service, but the system also will be broadly available for free to meteorologists and the public.

"It's primarily developed for National Weather Service forecasters, but it is cloud-based and accessible in real time," Rahn said. "The National Weather Service is a public service, so its products are typically public and free. That is one of the benefits of having a National Weather Service that is not monetized and is for the public good."

Rahn's co-authors were lead author Jerod Kaufman, a KU graduate student now working for the National Weather Service; David Mechem, KU professor of geography & atmospheric science; Patrick Burke of the National Severe Storms Laboratory; Montgomery Flora of the National Severe Storms Laboratory; and Corey Potvin of the University of Oklahoma and the National Severe Storms Laboratory.

"The lead author was my master's student, and this was his thesis project," Rahn said. "He now works at the Wichita National Weather Service, which is a nice example of research transitioning into operations. This is cutting-edge research that integrates operational meteorology into the classroom. It shows how graduate research can transition directly into real-world forecasting and public service."

As the WoFS system continues to undergo evaluation in live-forecasting scenarios, the hope is it will eventually save lives and property. Warnings can be issued to the public with more time for people to seek safety, while emergency services will have more opportunity for preparation.

"One major benefit of longer lead times is informing emergency managers at the county level," Rahn said. "With more time, they can position resources, coordinate hospitals and prepare search-and-rescue operations. The mission of the National Weather Service is to protect lives and property. An hour of lead time versus 15 minutes is extremely useful for everybody."

(<https://news.ku.edu/news/article/tornado-forecast-system-can-increase-warning-lead-times-study-finds>)

## SPICE UP YOUR LIFE - LINDSAY YOUNG

*Don't be 'choco'late to the party if you want a chance at these brownies*



These chocolate ganache goey brownies feature a thick, chocolate topping with a hint of peanut butter, on top of dark-chocolate-laden cakey brownies to provide a sinfully decadent dessert.

In past years, January and February have felt like reset months for us.

Things slow down, activities are fewer, and it's time to catch our breaths.

Not so this year. Last week, Joey and I were honored to be invited to speak at the Kentucky Press Association's annual conference, and we ended up spending an extra day out of town, thanks to the deluge of snow, and while I might have normally been tempted to phone in my column this week, due to a lack of time, that simply wasn't possible. I have a dessert auction counting on me.

Well, OK, so it's not really counting on me, but I promised Peace Connections in Newton that I would provide a dessert for their annual auction next week, and I was not about to disappoint. I needed to find something that would be delicious and look darn tempting to drive up the bids for a great cause. Enter some chewy,

decadent brownies.

This comes from the blog "Georgina Eliza." You can find the original post at <https://georginaeliza.co.uk/2022/09/23/chocolate-ganache-goey-brownies/>. I converted everything into U.S. measurements, and I added extra vanilla and chocolate in my version.

### Chocolate Ganache

#### Goey Brownies

##### Ingredients

- 8 1/4 tablespoons butter
- 1 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons vanilla
- 16 ounces dark chocolate chips, divided
- 1 1/3 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- 3 tablespoons creamy peanut butter

##### Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease an eight-by-eight-inch baking pan, and set it aside.

Add the butter to a saucepan, and heat over low heat. When the butter is melted, add the sugar, milk and vanilla, stirring regularly until the sugar is dissolved, and then stir in half of the chocolate chips, stirring until the chocolate is melted.

Meanwhile, add the flour, salt and cocoa powder to a mixing bowl, and stir to combine.

Add in the chocolate mixture, and stir until everything is well combined, and pour the batter into the prepared pan, spreading it out evenly. Bake for 20 minutes or until the

top of the brownies looks set and crackled. (The brownies are meant to stay a bit goey.)

Set the brownies aside to cool completely.

When they're cooled, add the rest of the chocolate chips to a small saucepan and heat over low heat, stirring regularly, until the chocolate is melted. Stir in the peanut butter until everything is smooth, and pour it over the brownies, spreading evenly.

Put the brownies in the fridge until the topping sets up, and then store them in an airtight container.

These were fabulous. They were dense and chewy and would be awesome with a bowl of ice cream or a good cup of coffee.

They would also be a wonderful dessert to bid on to support Peace Connections on Thursday, Feb. 5, at Salem United Methodist Church, 115 Old Main St., Newton. The soup dinner is by donation and starts at 5:30 p.m. The dessert auction will begin at 6:15 p.m.

If you want more information about this awesome group, visit their website at <https://www.peaceconnections.org/>. They do a lot of good to help a lot of people in the area each year.

And if you're like me, and your 2026 is already insanely busy, what better way to take something off your to do list than not having to make dinner yourself on Feb. 5?

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

## Small towns can strengthen resilience efforts through initiative

By Val Ankeny, Senior policy associate, Center for Rural Affairs

Throughout the nation, communities highly vulnerable to climate impacts have an opportunity to strengthen their adaptation and resilience efforts through the Climate Smart Communities Initiative.

This public-private partnership offers both funding and technical assistance. Through its current grant cycle, the program will award 16 to 20 grants, with individual awards ranging from \$75,000 to \$115,000.

One awardee, the City of Fremont, Nebraska, was selected in 2024 to support families living in mobile and manufactured homes near the Platte River where increasingly intense storms and ice jams have led to flash flooding that threatens both lives and livelihoods.

With a \$114,978 grant, Fremont and its partners are adding on to

existing hazard mitigation plans and evaluating options to reduce flood risk, including infrastructure improvements.

Grants are intended to provide funding to assist communities in hazard mitigation planning, restoring floodplains, and developing and implementing climate change adaptation plans. Funded activities can be early in the process, such as setting priorities and building shared strategy, or more advanced, such as moving a specific project toward implementation.

Technical assistance provided by the Climate Smart Communities Initiative is to help communities scope projects, evaluate options, and ensure plans are both practical and competitive.

The program prioritizes funding for communities that include historically disinvested populations facing increased risk from climate-

related impacts. Eligible projects must be based in the U.S. and submitted by a team that includes three partners: an adaptation practitioner, a community-based organization, and a local or regional government entity.

Applications for the Climate Smart Communities Initiative are accepted through March 12, 2026. Communities interested in applying should begin identifying priority needs, gathering local data, and engaging partners as soon as possible. Find out more by reading our grant spotlight at [cfra.org/rural-resources](http://cfra.org/rural-resources).

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

### Opinion

## Taking the High Road: A Kansas Tradition

By Todd G. Thompson, Leavenworth County Attorney

As Kansans, I've always believed we are people who take the high road—whether morally, politically, or geographically.

Geographically? I know many claim Kansas is flat, but that's not what Colonel Henry Leavenworth found when establishing the first settlement in this State.

After the Louisiana Purchase and the end of the Mexican Revolution, trade with Mexico became crucial for U.S. expansion. The U.S. established a trade route with the Great Osage tribe, known as the Santa Fe Trail. However, despite the trade agreement, traders faced dangers along the route. Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton (uncle of the famous artist of the same name), who wanted to protect Missourians, proposed a place along the route to safeguard them.

Although Benton aimed to protect Missourians, the fort was built on the west side of the river. Colonel Leavenworth, tasked with establishing a cantonment, knew the east side of the Missouri River was prone to flooding. He chose the elevated bluffs

on the west bank to avoid this risk and gain a tactical advantage. As Sun Tzu said, a high position provides clear sightlines for observing enemy movement and securing better attacking positions.

This military tactic evolved into an idiom: "take the high road." We use it when we stand firm on moral or political issues, while others act unjustly. As Kansans, we took the moral high road by knowing how immoral slavery was, and when we fought for school desegregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Whether you agree or not, Kansas took the moral high road on alcohol when we abolished alcohol in our Constitution.

Prosecutors, too, must take the moral and ethical high road in their work. We are often asked to discuss case details—whether by the media or the public—but we cannot. Legally and ethically, it is the jury's role to determine the facts. If law enforcement or prosecutors publicly share their opinions, they risk jeopardizing the accused's right to a fair trial. Every defendant is entitled to legal counsel and a trial by their

peers, free from public influence. That is why prosecutors and law enforcement refrain from advocating, or even speaking about a case, even under pressure. We do not remain silent to be secretive or evasive, we do it because we must take the high road, even when it benefits someone we believe has done wrong.

In today's world, too many people take the low road. Sadly, it has become easier and seems more commonplace. It has become far too easy for people to espouse negative and false opinions. We especially see this on social media. Anyone can spew uninformed opinions or attempt to upset others. Hearing these things can make it difficult to take the high road. I experience more than most in my roles as a prosecutor and an elected official. Yet, when I face these challenges, I remember I am a Leavenworthian, and I remember I am a Kansan. We take the high road because that is who we are, and that is what we do.

I hope the next time you face that fork in the road, you, too, remember who you are and who you want to be.