



DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS-TIMES



Getting back to our roots



CHAPMAN. ENTERPRISE. HERINGTON. HOPE. AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES



Herington Middle School won their 3rd wheat state league tournament.

From Donalyn Biehler, Superintendent USD 487

To the parents and patrons of USD 487, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for the opportunity to work for you and your children. As part of this community for the past eighteen years, much of my heart and soul are invested here.

Herington schools and the people who work within them are dedicated,

hardworking people who do great things for kids. That's part of what makes USD 487 so great. With all of those wonderful things said, I am publicly announcing my resignation as Superintendent of schools effective June 30th. The USD 487 Board of Education will work diligently to find a high quality leader to fill the role of Superintendent. I am confident that my replacement will experience the same grace, understanding, and cooperation that I did in this role.

Always #railerproud (Courtesy USD 487)



Girls MS wrestling results at Junction City:
Areiana Lopez-3rd Place
Amberlynn Bellomy-4th Place
Sophia Schuster-3rd Place
Luna May-4th Place
Brooklyn Gibson- 3rd Place
(Courtesy USD 473)

Contact Information: Dickinson County News-Times
dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com • Phone 785-524-4200

Closed: Monday - Tuesday for Delivery and Production
Phone Hours: Wednesday - Friday 11 am - 3 pm

Worship Guide

First Baptist Church
 9 am - Connection Section
 Enjoy snacks, coffee & fellowship
 9:30 am - Sunday School
 For adults & kids of all ages
 10:30 am - Worship Service
 201 E. Hawley St.
 Herington, KS 67449
 785-258-3207
 www.fbcherington.org

St. Michael Catholic Church
 210 E. 6th St. • Chapman
 Sunday Mass 9 a.m.
 Fr. Peter O'Donnell
 Marita Campbell,
 Parish Life
 Coordinator
 785-922-6509
 smichael-chapman@sbcglobal.net
 www.smchapmanparish.org

Alida Upland Cooperative Parish
 2243 3300 Ave., Junction City
 11 a.m. Worship Service

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 2201 1000 Ave., Herington
 8:30 a.m. Worship
 (Alternating Sundays)

Enterprise Community Church
 210 W. South St., Enterprise
 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10:15 a.m. Worship

Our Redeemer Lutheran
 802 E. Trapp, Herington
 10:30 a.m. Worship

First Baptist Church
 201 E Hawley St., Herington
 9 a.m. Connection Section
 Coffee & Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for
 adults and children
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

St. John's Lutheran Church
 2124 Highway 4, Herington
 8:30 a.m. Worship
 (Alternating Sundays)

First Christian Church
 15 S. First St., Herington
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

St. Paul Lutheran Church
 114 N. Eighth St., Herington
 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class
 11 a.m. Worship/Communion

Grace Baptist Church
 117 E. Third St., Chapman
 9:45 a.m. Bible School
 10:45 a.m. Worship/Service

Sutphen Mill Christian Church
 3117 Paint Rd., Chapman
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Call 785-524-4200
 to have your church added!



Rev. Connie D. Wooldridge
 Chapman United Methodist Church

PASTOR'S CORNER

The melting snow did not do us any favors. Our church has sloping roof sections all rambling down to a smaller flat section. We have chased the leaks in that flat section for a couple of years. Last week our dry ceiling tiles which had held during the most recent rains looked damp again and by the end of the day, water poured through. Nothing to do but call the roofers back again. The roofer explained that the downward sloping roof sections were designed to give a runoff track for the rain which had held until it was cold and snowy. The warm sun on the roof began to melt the snow and as the water dripped slowly down the roof to the place where rain would run off, it formed a snow and ice dam. The melting snow then had no place to go so it gathered under the edges of the tile and started a little roof

DAMAGE CONTROL

flood that ended up in our gathering area. I had a conversation with someone who had a difficult week. The week started pretty good like a light fluffy snow fall that felt peaceful and beautiful. During the week some difficulties damaged that peace and it started to melt away and dribble down into the heart piling up little by little until the tears began to flow. I hadn't seen the flood coming because I did not know what was building up on the inside. I wonder how many people around me are facing days like that. We don't always see the pain others are carrying. Most of us have the ability to slough off our struggles as they come, but we all have days when the build-up is too great and it all pours forth in tears or bursts out in anger. I meet people every day, and I never know who has a dam of pain building inside. What most people need from me or from you is a bit of understanding and a little hopeful encouragement. We never know when the dam might break but I am convinced that if we start with kindness we won't add to the blockage and we may just offer some repair.



THIS DAY IN THE HERINGTON TIMES

125 years ago - 1901
RETRIEVED GLASS FROM CARRIE NATION SMASHING - Harry Rogers has a piece of the plate glass mirror that was smashed by Mrs. Nation at Enterprise on display in his window at the Cash Racket.

FRED HARVEY IS DEAD - Fred Harvey of Leavenworth died at his home of cancer. He was born in London in 1836 and came to America at the age of 15. He became ticket agent for the Burlington railroad in Leavenworth in 1965 and was later made general western freight agent on that railroad. Since 1882 he had operated eating houses and hotels on the Santa Fe system from Chicago to California, and more lately on the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad. When he died, Mr. Harvey had forty-five hotels and eating houses in operation along with 20 rail dining cars.

100 years ago - 1926
BOYS INJURED - The nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Longhofer of near Woodbine was kicked by a horse Wednesday of last week, the hoof of the animal cutting a deep gash over the lad's eye. The boy was lucky he was not killed. This past Monday, Chester, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wendlandt, who lives east of town, fractured both bones of the right arm while playing volleyball. He was brought to Herington Hospital and is reported as getting by nicely.

SERGEANT BROTHERS HERE ON FURLOUGH

SERGEANT BROTHERS HERE ON FURLOUGH - Two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fisher, Sgt. Chester Fisher and Sgt. Randolph Fisher have been spending furloughs in Herington with relatives and friends. Sgt. Chester Fisher arrived in Herington from Denver, Colorado on January 20. He quit Herington High School in 1945 and entered the Air Force where he completed his high school training. He was stationed at San Antonio, TX and at Denver, CO. For the past five years he has been an air-policeman at Lowry Field in Denver. He will leave Monday for New Jersey from where he will live for duty in England. His younger brother, Randolph, arrived in Herington after stopping in Denver to visit family. He took his basic training at Fort Knox in 1948 and attended Army Language school at Presidio, CA for 31 months, serving part-time as an instructor on the field. He was recently discharged and has re-enlisted as a volunteer in the far east command. He will leave here to report at Camp Stoneman, CA for an overseas assignment.

50 years ago - 1976
CLOTHING STORE TO OPEN - A new retail business will open in downtown Herington next week. A store specializing in sportswear for teens and adults will open for business at 10 West Walnut in a building previously occupied by Yakle's Antiques. The new store will be known as "Blim's Tops and Bottoms for Guys and Gals." Owner and manager of the store is Chan Blim of Council Grove. Herington Historical Society & Museum, 800 S. Broadway. Hours: 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. - markcwill1963@gmail.com

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VIEW FROM THE HILL- Scott Hill

Legislature Update Week 3

The Ed Sullivan show became an important part of history this week in 1964. The decision of the show managers to have a "radical" new band called The Beatles on their stage changed the course of music history in our country. Pop culture often has more of an impact on the direction of our country than legislative statutes. The decision made by the NFL that resulted in the half time show at the Super Bowl being sung in the Spanish language is an interesting cultural statement. We are not a bi-lingual country in spite of the fact that we have millions of people living in our country who are immigrants, both legal and illegal. There are those who would argue that the popular culture portrayed in media and the internet follows the values of society. I believe that we often see influencers who may or may not have widespread support trying to use their position to influence culture. My job as a senator is not to be swayed by influencers, but to listen to constituents and weigh their concerns in relationship to the foundational ideas of our republic.

Legislation that was approved by the Senate this week and my vote follows:
 SB299 Makes the process for nominating Supreme Court Justices more transparent. I voted aye and SB299 passed 38-0.
 SB327 Would change the meeting time of the Robert G. Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight to meet once in each quarter. I voted aye and SB327 passed 38-0.

SB348 would exempt any electric public subsidiary of an electric cooperative from the control of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). I voted aye and SB348 passed 38-0.
 HB2331 is a bill that would enable coroners to dispose of, for internment, the remains of persons that relatives do not claim. It also establishes the requirements for using the term crematory. I voted aye and HB2331 passed 38-0.

These bills are typical of many of the pieces of legislation that comes before the senate. It is easy to become fixated on a few bills that are very controversial and forget that most of the work done in the Capitol is about making minor changes to law. These changes are usually prompted by adaptations to technology, or ways that business practices have changed. In some cases (not often enough in my opinion), we remove obsolete statutes. Many times, legislation is put in place to safeguard the public as a whole. Other times special interests get barriers in place that ensure a competitive advantage for the supporters of the legislation. It is my goal to be transparent, honest, and straightforward on all of the legislation that comes before us. Music groups change with the whims of the consumer. The Beatles went on to become one of the most iconic bands ever. Time will tell if the pop culture bands of today will survive. The fundamental values of a constitutional republic have clearly demonstrated their value in world governmental history and will hopefully be here for many years to come.

Salina, Kansas - OCK, Inc. Transportation will have shortened hours on Monday, February 16, 2026, in observation of Presidents' Day.

On February 16th, CityGo buses will run from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with no peak routes running.

Regional paratransit, GoAbilene, and GoConcordia vehicles will run a reduced service. 81 Connection, KanConnect, and OCK OnDemand will run normal schedules.

Transportation services will resume normal operating hours on Tuesday, February 17th.

OCK, Inc. provides services in north central Kansas to anyone with any type of long or short-term disability, starting as early as birth and following people through their whole lives. OCK provides an array of supports for success at home and in the community, including independent living skills and supports, employment and career training, Alzheimer's

supports, autism services, assistive technology, children's services, transportation, specialized therapies, and home health care.

OCK is committed to providing transportation services to the general public, seniors, and persons with disabilities, through a variety of programs, including a fixed route service in Salina, CityGo, a regional paratransit service that serves fourteen counties, non emergency medical transportation for people with Medicaid, as well as non emergency medical transportation for clients of Salina Regional Health Center, a regional fixed route service, 81 Connection, KANcycle - the regional bike sharing program, Go Abilene public transportation, GoConcordia public transportation, KanConnect, a regional fixed route service, and the newest program, OCK OnDemand.

Legal Notice

(First Published in Dickinson County News Times on Wednesday, January 28, 2026)

On behalf of Chapman USD 473, DCS Services LLC will be accepting proposals for installation of track/football field lights at the District Stadium. Interested parties need to contact Darrel at 316-869-1008. We encourage participation by disadvantaged small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises.

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Chapman Senior Center
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Solomon Senior/Friendship Center
119 W 4th Ave • Solomon • 785-655-9435

Friday, February 13: Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Cauliflower, Cinnamon Apples, Wheat Roll

Monday, February 16: Taco Salad, Corn Chips, Spinach, Pineapple Tidbits, Cookie

Tuesday, February 17: Pizza Pasta Caserole, Italian Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread Stick, Fruit Salad

Wednesday, February 18: Oven Fried Chicken OR Fish, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans, Strawberry Shortcake, Wheat Roll

Thursday, February 19: Chicken & Rice Casserole, Buttered Carrots, Peas, Fruit Cocktail, Wheat Roll

Friday, February 20: Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Strawberry Shortcake

Monday, February 23: Stuffed Pepper Casserole, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

Tuesday, February 24: Stuffed Pepper Casserole, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

Wednesday, February 25: Stuffed Pepper Casserole, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

Thursday, February 26: Stuffed Pepper Casserole, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

Friday, February 27: Stuffed Pepper Casserole, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

Saturday, February 28: Stuffed Pepper Casserole, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

Sunday, February 29: Stuffed Pepper Casserole, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

Monday, February 16: Center Closed!

Tuesday, February 17: Stuffed Pepper Casserole, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

Wednesday, February 18: Riblet or Baked Fish, Potato Wedges, Broccoli, Pineapple, Bread

Thursday, February 19: Biscuits & Gravy Hashbrowns, Sliced Tomato, Fruit

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Come Join This Fun Bunch!

Everyday ~ 1 p.m. Cards
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Wednesday, Feb. 11: 10:30 Bingo with Prizes (Hosted by Home Health Ladies)
Friday, Feb. 13: Valentines Lunch! Bring your sweetheart!
Saturday, Feb. 14: Valentines Day!
Monday, Feb. 16: Hilltop Center is CLOSED! For Presidents Day!
Tuesday, Feb. 17: Noon ~ Puzzle Day!
Thursday, Feb. 19: 9 to? ~ Foot Care! Call 785-258-6028 for your appointments.
Wednesday, Feb. 25: 11:30 Trivia Day!
Friday, Feb. 27: Noon in House Potluck Dinner

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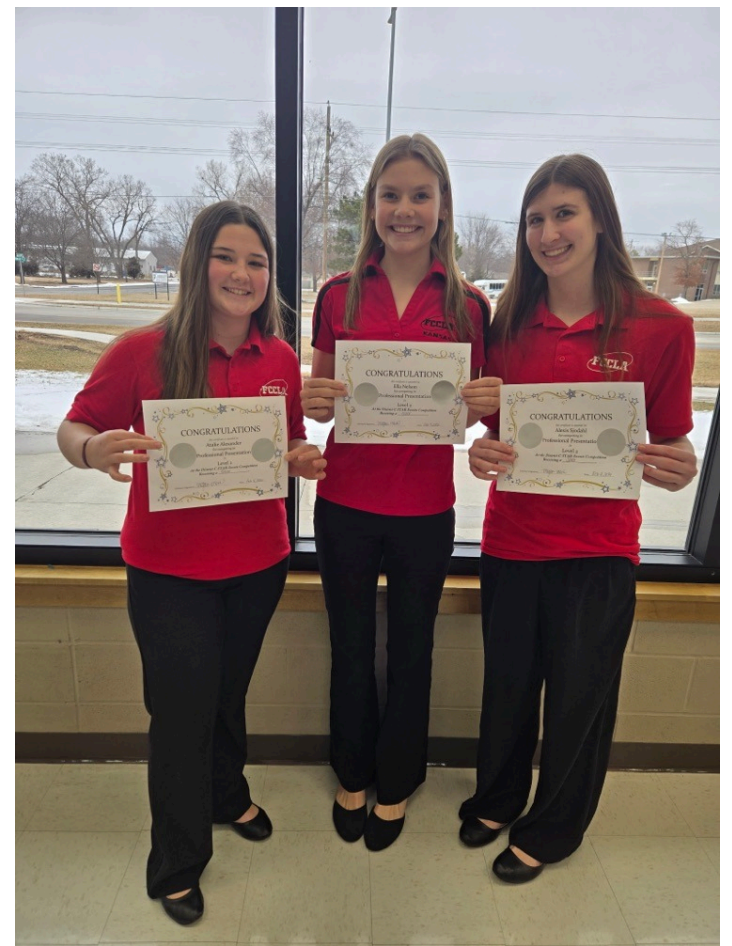
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PHOTOS TO RIGHT

Herington FCCLA competed in star Events in Abilene on Wednesday. All four groups will go onto state in April. Cadence and Koryn ended their year as District Officers while Alexis and Lilian were elected as new officers. Congratulations to all members. (Courtesy of USD 487)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT: CHILI COOKOFF – Fun/Fundraiser for Arts Council of Dickinson County
WHEN: Saturday – February 28, 2026 5:00 to 7:00 PM
WHERE: Joe Snuffy’s Restaurant – 209 W. 1 st Street, Abilene, KS
WHY: Everyone loves Chili and Cinnamon Rolls – Fund Raising Event

Chili Cooks and Chili LOVERS – Bring it ON!!! IF YOU LIKE CHILI and CINNAMON Rolls (an old Kansas Tradition) you will want to attend this CHILI cookoff on Saturday, February 28th , 5 pm to 7 pm - Joe Snuffy’s Restaurant – 209 W. 1st Street, Abilene. All ages, no charge to attend. To enter, bring 3 quarts of your favorite chili to Joe Snuffy’s by 4:30 – in crock pot with cord. Event opens to the public at 5 pm. Judging Cups will be available for \$5.00 – Taste all the chilies and vote for the People’s Choice. Certified Chili Affionadio judges from Dickinson County will be

judging all the chili for the awards of 1st , 2nd and 3rd . \$50.00 will go to the 1st Place winner! Eisenhower Chili will be available for purchase of \$10.00 .. Get a bowl of Chili, Cinnamon Roll and Drink or a Chili Dog, Cinnamon Roll and Drink. Applications are available at the Arts Council or email Sharonjrm@gmail.com/ or text 970-613-9610 for an application. Entries/applications are encouraged by Wed. Feb. 25 th . Entry fee is only \$20.00. Requirements are 3 QUARTS of chili for the public to sample. Tasting cups will be for sale for \$5.00 and everyone who purchases a tasting cup will get a ticket to vote for the “people’s choice” Continuing to bring culture and different aspects of ART to Dickinson County is the goal of the Arts Council. The Board of Directors are excited about this new event and encourage everyone to join us in tasing the BEST of Chili in Dickinson County on Sat. Feb. 28th . at the Sr. Center. NO cost to attend.

Chief justice appoints members to Rural Justice Initiative Committee

TOPEKA—Chief Justice Eric Rosen signed an order appointing 18 members to the Rural Justice Initiative Committee. Supreme Court Rule 1405 created the standing committee to implement recommendations made in the Rural Justice Initiative Final Report, monitor the effectiveness of those efforts, and identify ways to improve access to legal services in rural Kansas. The standing committee succeeds the Rural Justice Initiative Committee created in 2022 to examine unmet legal needs in rural Kansas related to a shrinking number of attorneys living and working in rural areas. That committee produced the final report with 10 recommendations that range from attorney recruitment projects to best practices to meet legal needs across Kansas. Justice K.J. Wall, who chaired the original committee, said work has already begun to implement the recommendations such as introduction of Senate Bill 214 to address law student loan debt. He said the committee has also worked with Kansas law schools and bar associations to develop a professional organization for rural attorneys. “Through this committee, we create a sustained, coordinated effort to grow the practice of law in rural Kansas,” he said. “We will help implement the recommendations, measure their effectiveness, and identify opportunities for additional programs to address this critical shortage of rural attorneys.” Appointed as permanent members are: Justice K.J. Wall, Kansas Supreme Court, chair Laurel Klein Searles, chief of Attorney Services and Compliance, Office of Judicial Administration, secretary

Stacey Blakeman, assistant dean of Career Services, University of Kansas School of Law Shawn Leisinger, associate dean for Centers and External Programs, externship director, rural programs director, Washburn University School of Law Senator Elaine Bowers, District 36 Trisha Purdon, Office of Rural Prosperity, Kansas Department of Commerce Appointed to serve through June 30, 2027, are: District Magistrate Judge Renee Henke, 17th Judicial District. The 17th Judicial District is composed of Decatur, Graham, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, and Smith counties Brien Stockman, attorney, Logan Etta Walker, attorney, Sharon Springs Paige Harding, attorney, Dodge City Appointed to serve through June 30, 2028, are: Judge Kim Schroeder, Kansas Court of Appeals Chief Judge Daniel Gilligan, 27th Judicial District, which is Reno County Steve Angermayer, attorney, Pittsburg Susan Richmeier, county attorney, Finney County Appointed to serve through June 30, 2029, are: Chief Judge Kevin Berens, 15th Judicial District, vice-chair. The 15th Judicial District is composed of Cheyenne, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, and Wallace counties David Rebein, attorney, Dodge City Joslyn Kusiak, attorney, Independence Wendy Rohleder-Sook, chair of the Department of Communication Studies, Law, and Political Science, Fort Hays State University

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HHS Scholars Bowl traveled to Moundridge today to compete at the 2A Regional. Our Railers ended in 4th place! We will miss this fantastic group of seniors next year!

(Courtesy USD 487)

Catholic Charities

St. Michael Catholic Church
210 E 6th ST
Chapman, KS 67431
Every 4th Wednesday of the month
9am-10am

St. John Catholic Church
712 Broadway
Herington, KS 67449
Every 1st Wednesday of the month
1pm-2pm

St. Andrew Catholic Church
311 S Buckeye Ave
Abilene, KS 67410
Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
3599 N Field Rd
Solomon, KS 67480
Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Enterprise Community Church
210 S High St.
Enterprise, KS 67441
Every 4th Wednesday of the Month
10:30am till 11am

DRIVE THRU FOOD PICK UP

First UMC Manhattan
1710 Avery Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
785-539-1748
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM HOURS
Tue
3rd of each month 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Westview Community Church
615 Gillespie Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-537-7173
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM HOURS
Fri
1st of each month 10am-11am

Ogden Community Center
220 Willow Street
Ogden, KS 66517
785-564-0071 or 785-410-6672
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM HOURS
Tue
4th of each month 9:30am-10:30am

Highview Church
402 Main Street
Alta Vista, KS 66834
620-767-2844
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM HOURS
Tue
4th of each month 11:30 AM 12:30 PM

SpiceUpYourLife-PickleDip

Lindsey Young



This pickle dip features lots of great pickle flavor, accentuated by bacon bits, fresh onions and lots of cheese.

Relish the thought of a dill-laden dip this week

A few months ago, my niece and I were talking about wish lists. At 8, her most recent birthday and Christmas desires have featured Barbies and their myriad accessories, and she's also an accomplished artist, loving anything and everything craft-related.

"You know what your mom asked our grandma to get her for her birthday one year?" I asked her.

"What?" I'm sure she was expecting something brilliant, since my sister is still held in reverence in their house.

"Pickles." "Pickles?" She scrunched up her nose in disgust. The love of dill clearly skipped a generation.

She was even more horrified when I told her our grandma went all out and purchased a big, gallon jar of whole dills and that my sister ate and enjoyed every last one in the weeks following her birthday. If that story disgusts you, as well, this may not be your favorite week for recipes. However, if you do like dill pickles, this is a great snack for you to make, and it's a great one for a crowd.

This comes from the influencer "timewithariana." You can find her on TikTok and on YouTube. I put more cheese in my version and figured out the amounts for all the ingredi-

ents.
Pickle Dip
Ingredients
2 cups plain Greek yogurt
8 ounces whipped cream cheese
3 ounces bacon bits
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
1 ounce Ranch seasoning packet
4 to 5 stalks green onion, diced
32 ounces pickles, drained and diced
Directions
Add all of the ingredients to a large bowl, and stir to combine well. That's it. Serve with crackers or pretzels, and keep any leftovers refrigerated in an airtight container. I made this for a couple get-togethers at our offices last week, and it went over really well. It's one of those things that, when you tell people what it is, they look at you really skeptically. But once folks tried a scoop, quite a few came back for another try. It's a little addictive. It's also not as overwhelmingly pickle-y as you kind of expect it to be. The cream cheese, cheddar and bacon really help to balance that out. I also had a few questions about prepping the pickles from people we shared this with. I didn't dab them dry, just tapped them on the side of the jar, and it didn't mess up the consistency of the overall dip at all. Also, if you like heat, I think using spicy pickles would be awesome in this, too. And it does make plenty, which makes it a great dip for a crowd. And, in my case, the leftovers are all mine, because Joey happens to be in agreement with my niece on pickles. The two of them don't know what they're missing.

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.

EVENTS

12 Feb, Thu

All day FCCLA/FBLA WEEK

All day HMS Quiz Bowl

Centre High School

3:30 – 8pm HS Forensics

Lincoln

4:30 – 5:30pm USD 473 MS BBB vs

Wamego 67431, USA

6 – 7pm Post 12 American Legion-
Herington

6 – 7pm USD 473 WR V/JV @ Abilene

13 Feb, Fri

All day USD 473 GWR Regionals @
TBA (Day 1/2)

All day USD 487 Girls Wrestling

Regionals (Day 1/2) Silver Lake

All day USD 473 ART Field Trip

All day FCCLA/FBLA WEEK

9:30 – 10am USD 473 Boys Tennis

Meeting

2:30 – 3:15pm CMS Pep Assembly -
Winter Sports CMS Gym

4 – 5:30pm USD 487 Basketball:

Varsity/JV Goessel Jr/Sr High School

4:30 – 5:30pm USD 473 BB V/JV/C @

Marysville

6:30 – 7:30pm VFW Bingo 101 E Main

St

14 Feb, Sat

All day USD 473 GWR Regionals @
TBA (Day 2/2)

All day USD 473 Girls Wrestling

Regionals (Day 2/2) Silver Lake

All day USD 473 State Sch. Bowl @
TBA

All day USD 487 Archery - Home Meet
Herington

9 – 10am USD 473 WR JV @ Chapman

10 – 11am USD 473 BB JV @ Riley

County

15 Feb, Sun

6 – 8pm HS Club VB (Erin Bell)
Chapman Middle School

16 Feb, Mon

All day StuCo Little Irish Leadership
Camp

All day USD 473 IN-SERVICE; NO
SCHOOL

9 – 10am Veterans Coffee The Pin Up
Cafe

4 – 5pm USD 473 MS GWR NCKL @
Clay Center

4:30 – 5:30pm USD 473 MS BBB vs
Clay Center

6 – 7:30pm Youth BBall 4th-6th Coed
(Stanley)

Multipurpose, Chapman High 6:30 –
8pm USD 473 Youth Wrestling District
Gym, Wrestling Room

6:30 – 7:30pm USD 487 BOE Meeting

17 Feb, Tue

4 – 5:30pm USD 487 Basketball:
Varsity/JV Northern Heights

4:30 – 7pm USD 473 FBLA Chili Feed

4:30 – 5:30pm US 473 BB V/JV/C vs
Rock Creek

18 Feb, Wed

9 – 10am USD 473 FFA Meetings @
Minneapolis

9am USD 487 FFA Selection Day/
Rules/Dates & District Office

Interviews

6 – 8pm Youth Wrestling District Gym,
Wrestling Room

KDOT announces approved
January bids

The Kansas Department of
Transportation announces
approved bids for state highway
construction and maintenance
projects. The letting took place
Jan. 21 in Topeka. Some of the
bids may include multiple
projects that have been bundled
based on proximity and type of
work.

District One — Northeast

Johnson - 69-46 KA-6506-02 –
U.S. 69, bridge #119 over
Johnson Drive, located at the old
K-158/U.S. 69 junction, and from
58th Street to 56th Street,
grading, bridge and surfacing,
0.2 mile, Comanche Construction
Inc., Olathe, Kansas,
\$2,506,513.21.

Leavenworth - 52 TE-0571-01 -
Various intersections in
downtown Leavenworth,
pedestrian and bicycle paths,
Julius Kaaz Construction Co.,
Inc., Leavenworth, Kansas,
\$420,420.00

Shawnee - 70-89 KA-6808-01 -
I-70, bridge #039 on California
Avenue over I-70, westbound
and eastbound lanes located at
the I-70/California Avenue
junction, bridge replacement,
King Construction Company Inc.
& Subsidiaries, Hesston, Kansas,
\$7,995,369.44.

Wyandotte - 635-105 KA-7665-01
- I-635, Metropolitan Avenue
interchange, lighting, 0.3 mile,
Capital Electric Line Builders,
LLC, Parkville, Missouri,
\$499,370.00.

District Two — North Central

Dickinson - 15-21 KA-6484-01 -
K-15, bridge #062 over Chapman
Creek, located 4.38 miles north
of the K-18/K-15 east junction,
bridge replacement, Bridges Inc.,
Newton, Kansas, \$3,995,297.28.

McPherson - 135-59 KA-7869-01 -
I-135, from .705 mile north of the
K-260/I-135 north junction north
to 0.99 mile south of the
K-61/I-135 junction, diamond
grinding concrete pavement, 8.0
miles, R.A. Knapp Construction
Inc., Lenexa, Kansas,
\$2,695,674.35.

Washington - 101 KA-7795-01 -
K-148, from the U.S. 36/K-148
junction north to the Kansas/
Nebraska state line; K-234, from
the Hanover city limits east to
the K-148/K-234 junction; and
K-243, from the K-148/K-243
junction east to Pony Express
Station, milling and overlay, 12.4
miles, Hall Brothers Inc.,
Marysville, Kansas,
\$3,607,085.30.

District Three — Northwest

Wallace - 40-100 KA-5738-01 –
U.S. 40, bridge #008 over South
Fork Smoky Hill Drainage,
located 4.76 miles southwest of
the Logan County line, bridge
replacement, Bridges Inc.,
Newton, Kansas, \$2,327,553.32.

District Four — Southeast

Anderson - 31-2 KA-7767-01 -
K-31, from the U.S. 59/K-31 south
junction east to the
Anderson/Linn county line,
overlay, 5.0 miles, Pearson
Construction LLC, Wichita,
Kansas, \$739,414.56.

Bourbon - 7-6 KA-7776-01 - K-7,
from the U.S. 54/K-7 junction
north to the K-31/K-7 west
junction, pavement patching,
13.9 miles, Emery Sapp & Sons
Inc. and Subsidiaries, Columbia,
Missouri, \$272,731.00.

Bourbon - 31-6 KA-7752-01 -
K-31, from the K-65/K-31 junction
east to the K-7/K-31 west
junction, overlay, 3.3 miles,
Pearson Construction LLC,
Wichita, Kansas, \$583,650.58.

Bourbon - 65-6 KA-7753-01 -
K-65, from the K-3/K-65 junction
east to the K-31/K-65 junction,
overlay, 10.9 miles, Pearson
Construction LLC, Wichita,
Kansas, \$1,779,814.41.

Bourbon - 7-6 KA-7751-01 - K-7,
from the K-31/K-7 east junction
north to the Bourbon/Linn
county line, overlay, 1.5 miles,
Pearson Construction LLC,
Wichita, Kansas, \$257,580.64.

Bourbon - 31-6 KA-7754-01 -
K-31, from the K-31/K-7 east
junction east to the U.S. 69/K-31
junction, overlay, 7.0 miles,
Pearson Construction LLC,
Wichita, Kansas, \$1,106,251.72.

Coffey - 16 C-5348-01 - Bridge
over Frog Creek, located 5.5
miles east and 0.8 mile north of
Lebo, bridge replacement, 0.2
mile, B&B Bridge Company LLC,
St. Paul, Kansas, \$821,235.00.

Labette - 169-50 KA-7919-01 –
U.S. 169, from the Labette/
Montgomery county line north to
the Labette/Neosho county line,
4-inch overlay, 1.8 miles, Bettis
Asphalt & Construction Inc.,
Topeka, Kansas, \$1,529,941.97.

Linn - 31-54 KA-7766-01 - K-31,
from the Anderson/Linn county
line east to the K-52/K-31
junction, overlay, 12.2 miles,
Pearson Construction LLC,
Wichita, Kansas, \$1,754,382.94.

Linn - 7-54 KA-7750-01 - K-7,
from the Bourbon/Linn county
line north to the K-52/K-7 south
junction, overlay, 7.2 miles,
Pearson Construction LLC,
Wichita, Kansas, \$948,360.76.

The following project has been
approved from the Dec. 17, 2025,
letting.

Montgomery - 75-63 TE-0521-01 –
U.S. 75 in Independence, from
Peter Pan Road to 21st Street on
Main Street/U.S. 160/U.S. 75, on
Peter Pan Road from Main Street
to 510 North Peter Pan Road, and
from Main Street to just west of
the South Kansas and Oklahoma
Railroad crossing on Laurel
Street, pedestrian and bicycle
paths, 1.0 mile, J. Graham
Construction Inc., Coffeyville,
Kansas, \$1,109,346.00.

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The Heart Center at Salina Regional Health Center is one team working together for your heart. It's for one simple reason: patients throughout north-central Kansas deserve comprehensive heart care, close to home. You can trust the skill and expertise of our cardiovascular surgeons and cardiologists, and the care and compassion of our nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and staff.

The Heart Center is an accredited Chest Pain Center by the American College of Cardiology, providing early, accurate, and life-saving diagnoses, as well as procedures such as bypass surgery, stents and angioplasty; TAVR (transcatheter aortic valve replacement); treatment for atrial fibrillation with the minimally invasive WATCHMAN™ procedure; and cardiac rehabilitation.

Whether you need general cardiac care provided in our clinic or a surgical procedure at Salina Regional Health Center, we are one team working together for your heart. For an appointment or more information, please visit heartcenter.srhc.com.



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Don't Wait: Community Foundation Scholarships Closing Soon

Abilene, KS — February 4, 2026 — Students across Dickinson County still have time to apply for scholarships through the Community Foundation of Dickinson County, but the deadline is quickly approaching.

This year, the Foundation is offering more than \$200,000 in scholarships across 56 funds, supporting students pursuing college degrees, trade schools, certifications, and other career training opportunities.

To make the process easier, the Foundation recently launched a new online scholarship system designed to streamline applications for both students and volunteer evaluators. With just one application, students can be matched with multiple scholarships, saving time while opening the door to more possibilities.

"These scholarships support all kinds of students with varied goals in mind," said Grants and Scholarship Coordinator, Jen Parks. "No matter your academic standing, extracurricular involvement, or plans for the future, there are opportunities you may be eligible for. We're here to support students who want to better themselves and open doors that might not have been available otherwise." The impact of these scholarships continues to grow each year. Last year alone, over \$200,000 was awarded to 46 students across Dickinson County, helping local families reduce financial barriers and focus on their educational goals.

Scholarships are made possible through generous donors who believe in

investing in the next generation. Parks encourages every eligible student to apply — even if they feel unsure. "You have nothing to lose and everything to gain," she said. "There is money available to help reduce your student debt, and it's worth putting yourself out there. If you're nervous, just focus on the first step. Complete the common application and see what you're eligible for. It only takes 10 to 15 minutes." For Parks, the work is deeply personal.

"I know firsthand the difference a scholarship can make in someone's life," she said. "It can open doors, change your path, and create opportunities you wouldn't have otherwise. There is money out there for students, no matter their circumstances. All you have to do is start applying."

Students can apply online at communityfoundation.us. Applications must be submitted by February 15, 2026. Students and families with questions are encouraged to contact the Foundation for assistance with the process.

The Community Foundation of Dickinson County connects people who care with causes that matter by supporting local nonprofits, students, and community initiatives through grants, scholarships, and charitable funds. Together, the Foundation is helping build a stronger, more vibrant Dickinson County— For good. For ever. ®

For more information about the Community Foundation's grant programs or to learn how you can make a lasting difference, visit www.communityfoundation.us or call (785)263-1863.



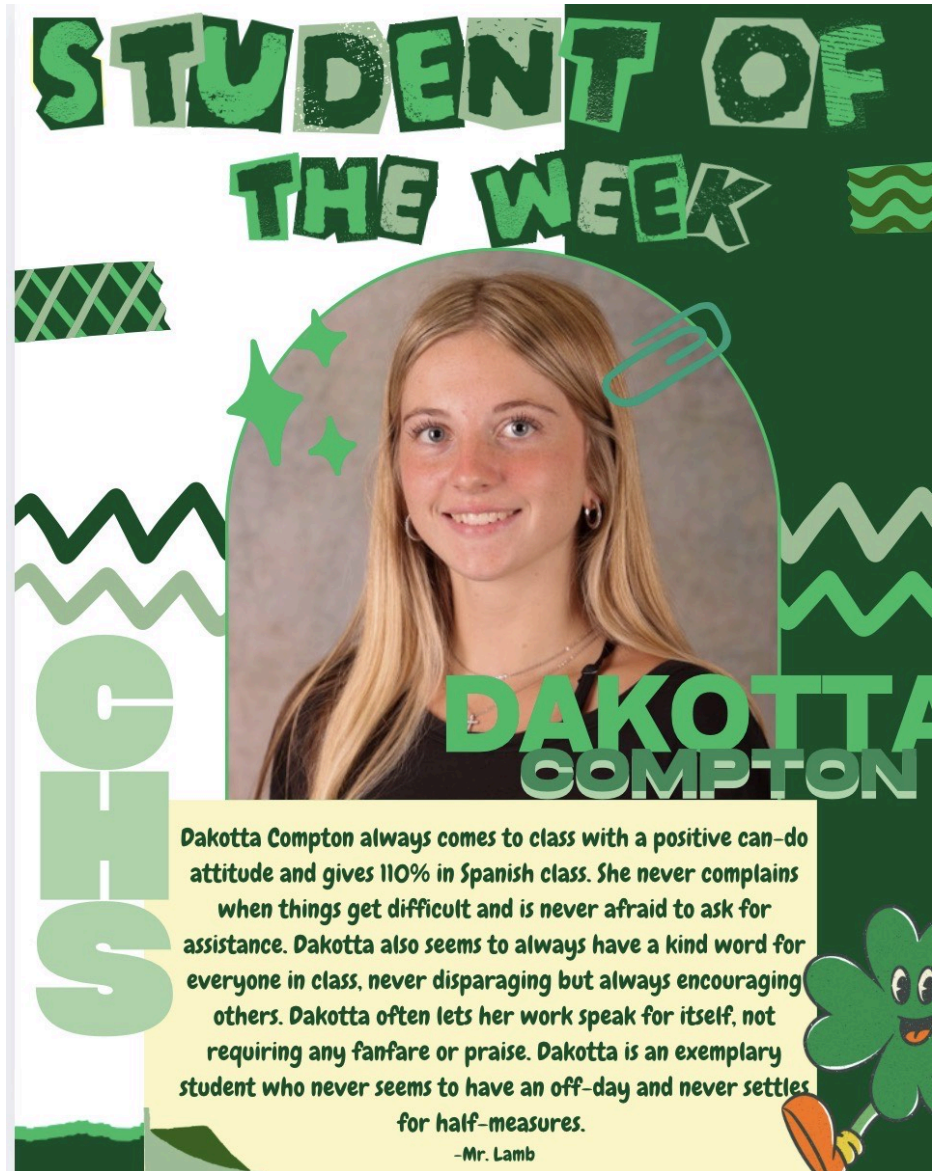
Kansas Sorghum Welcomes Carson Rudd as 2026 Collegiate Fellow

Manhattan, KS (Feb. 4, 2026)— Kansas Sorghum Producers (KSP) and the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission (KGSC) are pleased to welcome Carson Rudd as the organizations' 2026 Collegiate Fellow.

Rudd is a sophomore at Kansas State University, where he is studying agricultural economics and building a strong foundation in food and agricultural policy. A native of Flora, Indiana, Rudd grew up adjacent to production agriculture, and found a passion for agriculture through FFA and high school agriculture classes. "As a Kansas Sorghum Collegiate Fellow, I look forward to gaining hands-on experience in state and federal-level policy-making, market development, and agricultural research initiatives while building meaningful connections with growers through my work with Kansas Sorghum," Rudd said.

Rudd brings a passion for advocacy shaped by his service as an

Indiana FFA State Officer, where he worked directly with agricultural leaders and policymakers. Through the fellowship, Rudd will work alongside the Kansas Sorghum team as well as colleagues across the Sorghum Belt to promote sorghum at all levels. "We are thrilled to welcome Carson to Kansas Sorghum," said Adam York, Kansas Sorghum CEO. "His leadership background and work ethic will be an asset for sorghum producers across the region and we are excited to continue our proud tradition of offering exposure of the Kansas sorghum industry to young agriculturalists as they continue their career journeys." Kansas Sorghum's Collegiate Fellowship program, offered in partnership with the Flinchbaugh Food and Ag Policy Program at Kansas State University, is now in its seventh year. The program provides students with hands-on experience in agricultural policy, advocacy, and regulatory issues at both the state and national levels through the spring in Kansas and summer in Washington, D.C.



DO YOU WANT A GRADUATION/SPORTS PRINTED EDITION?

This is our first year being Digital for the Graduation/Sports edition. With this being said, I have been given permission to design a Graduation/Sports printed edition. I am SUPER EXCITED to be able to showcase our kids in our communities. However, I am only able to print IF I raise enough money to cover the cost of printing. So here is what I am offering....

2x2
\$50



2x4
\$75

1x2
\$30

SIGNATURE
\$20

This is also available for parents to put their dedications in for their students.

In the event I cannot get enough people to buy a sponsorship, we will still do a digital edition and sponsorship prices will be 50% less. I am hoping we can raise enough money to give the kids the recognition they deserve and the family members a keepsake.

Contact us by April 29th to support the printed Graduation/Sports Edition
Invoices will be Sent May 1st and Must be paid by May 15th to continue.

Contact us at dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com or call 785-524-4200 Wed-Fri 11am to 3pm.

A DEHYDRATED FISH

By: Van Yandell

Matthew 4: 18-20 "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

"He's like a fish out of water!" That's a saying we've heard describing a person that was out of place and at times, obviously so. Fish need water but so do humans. The earth's surface is seventy-one percent covered with water. That water makes us the blue planet which is a color at times associated with life. We are told to drink certain amounts of water every day.

The National Academy of Science tells us to drink 3.7 liters of water per day for men; that's about one gallon.

Women are advised to drink about 2.7 liters. Margie said I should drink eight glasses of water each day. I said "Fine, what's the smallest glass we have?"

A urologist once told me to drink water with lemon every day for kidney health. I took that advice and have had no kidney problems since. I'm told kidney stone pain is equivalent to child birth. If that were true, the world population would probably be much less than eight billion!

The plant life in the oceans produces over half of the earth's oxygen. Some estimate that number may be as high as eighty percent. Definitions and descriptions vary as to exactly what seaweed includes. Phytoplankton, kelp, and algal plankton are usually included and produce tremendous amounts of our oxygen.

Scuba-diving off the Florida Keys, I noticed the tremendous amount of plant life under the surface.

Coral appears as a rock-like material but it is actually alive.

When shrimping on Mosquito Lagoon by the Kennedy Space Center, our underwater lights became constantly entangled with seaweed. Plant life under the seas, considering the salinity of the water, is surprising but is there in abundance. We know the earth's atmospheric movements circulate the produced oxygen, making it possible for us to breathe anywhere on the earth (Ecclesiastes 1: 6).

God had the essential components for the production of life at creation (Genesis 1: 1-3). A combining of carbon based matter (the earth), light and water result in the production of chlorophyll from which a by-product is oxygen.

God not only is the first and greatest recycler (Ecclesiastes 1: 7), He is also the Great Reciprocater.

Humans and other animals breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Plant life uses the carbon to produce more oxygen.

Any way we carve this up, water is essential for life on earth. A "fish out of water" is a cliché referring to someone feeling awkward, uncomfortable or struggling. Eventually that fish will succumb to its lack of oxygen. Gills were not designed to function out of water.

Anyone that has ever wet a line (fished), has seen a fish out of water. They flop around, struggling to survive. Life becomes unbearable with their inability to breathe and swim. Eventually, death overcomes them.

A dehydrated fish and a spiritually dehydrated Christian are

somewhat similar. Jesus gave us (by one source) over 1000 commandments. We are New Testament Christians yet we at times place more emphasis on the Old Testament Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

Christians are promoting the reinstatement of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, public buildings and in park areas. While this is well and good, let's not forget about the other mandates Jesus gave us.

Matthew 22: 36-38

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

This is directly tied to the first Commandment in the Old Testament (Exodus 20: 3-5). How many of us have priorities in our lives other than studying our Bibles or spending time with God in prayer and meditation?

Yes, we are those dehydrated fish! Is it time to re-evaluate our lives and more specifically, our priorities? The church is obviously failing to evangelize and the world is suffering because of that failure.

If the Apostle Paul were alive today, the American church would receive a letter! If John were writing Revelation chapters two and three today there would be eight churches of the Revelation rather than seven.

We are facing a situation in our world in which the negligence of the church has become apparent and shows on a monumental scale. Without the teachings/commandments of God in the Old and New Testaments, our world will

continue to degrade into a state of danger, fear and chaos. When the world does not understand and value the differences in right and wrong, humanity deteriorates into a state of inhumanity.

Mao Zedong said "A guerrilla must move amongst the people as a fish swims in the sea." A guerrilla is a fighter. We cannot become soldiers for the cross by remaining in our comfort zones with the attitude "Let someone else tell the world about Jesus."

The last words spoken by Jesus before He ascended were Acts 1: 8 "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

We have no excuse! The uttermost part is no longer the other side of the world; it is here. We have the financial resources, the technology and the people. This societal condition has reached a state of urgency. We are seeing and reading in the news every day of man's evil tendencies. How long can this last?

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary, from Fredonia, Kentucky. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com



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Joy Eakins Unveils Plan for Property Tax Reform- Announcement Made at First Gubernatorial Debate

Wichita, KS - Today, Joy Eakins her plan for property tax reform in Kansas. The announcement was made at the First 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Debate.

"The rising cost of homeownership is stifling the American Dream. It's time to stop the decline and deliver real relief," said Joy Eakins. "The Kansas Comeback puts Kansans first with bold, commonsense reforms to make our state the Epicenter of Entrepreneurship."

Joy's property tax plan puts Kansans first in three key ways:

Fair and predictable appraisals: Joy's plan limits increases in appraisals to 3% or inflation, whichever is less.

Empowering homeowners and reforming the system: Joy makes clear that government works for the people, not the other way around, by giving Kansans a clearer, easier path to contest out-of-control appraisal increases. Establishing a Property Tax Relief Fund: As government revenues grow, a portion of that growth will be set aside to reduce property taxes for Kansans.

You can find additional details on each of these three proposals at KansasComeback.com/PropertyTaxReform. The First 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Debate was held at the annual 2026 KSGOP Winter Convention, which is taking place today and tomorrow at the Wichita Marriott.

Learn more about Joy Eakins' candidacy for Governor at KansasComeback.com.

Prairie Doc Perspective

“Spring into Seasonal Allergies”

By Jill Kruse, DO

The groundhog may have seen his shadow, but Spring will be here soon. While many of us look forward to warmer days and blooming flowers, those who suffer from seasonal allergies know that the return of grass, budding trees, and blooming flowers can lead to more sneezing than smiles. Welcome to the Spring allergy season.

If your seasonal allergies seem to be getting worse each year, it is not in your head. A Study from the National Academy of Sciences in 2021 found that over the last 30 years the North American pollen allergy season has increased by approximately 20 days. Pollen concentrations have also risen 21%. The Spring tree pollen season has been starting earlier and the Fall ragweed season has been ending later.

Seasonal allergies can develop at any time in one’s life. The most common risk factor for developing seasonal allergies is family history. If have

family members with allergies, you have an increased risk of developing them as well. Seasonal allergies are the sign of an overactive immune system that has mistakenly identified harmless substances, like pollen, as dangerous threats to the body. This triggers an inappropriate defense response that leads to the common symptoms of allergies like runny nose, congestion, watery eyes, itching, and sneezing. The immune system is trying to fight pollen like it would fight a cold. This is why it can be difficult to differentiate between allergies and illness.

There are a few ways to help decrease the risk of children developing allergies. Several studies have shown that children who visit a farm in their first year of their life or have furry pets have a lower risk of allergies. In that first year of life, the immune system is busy trying to figure out what things the body needs to defend against and what

things are safe to ignore. The environment on the farm has so different allergens, that it allows the immune system to become tolerant of the harmless pollen and animal dander. However, once someone has allergies, and the immune system is sensitive to these substances, further exposure to allergens that are on a farm will not help. It will just make the allergy sufferer more miserable.

The first line over-the-counter treatment for seasonal allergies is intranasal corticosteroids such as Fluticasone (Flonase), Mometasone (Nasonex), and Budesonide (Rhinocort). These nasal sprays have been shown to be more effective than over-the-counter oral antihistamines such as Loratidine (Claritin), Fexofenadine (Allegra), and Cetirizine (Zyrtec). If the spray does not give adequate control, then adding an oral antihistamine can help.

If these medications

are not effective, then seeing an Allergist is the next step to enjoying everything that comes with April showers and May flowers. The groundhog says we have six more weeks to prepare for Spring. Regardless of when it comes, everyone can enjoy Spring if they understand seasonal allergies and how to treat them.

Dr. Jill Kruse is a hospitalist at the Brookings Health System 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, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

Supreme Court to conduct special evening session March 10 in Abilene

TOPEKA — The Kansas Supreme Court will conduct a special evening session March 10 in Abilene as part of its ongoing outreach to familiarize Kansans with the high court, its work, and the overall role of the Kansas judiciary. The court will be in session from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, 200 SE 4th Street, Abilene. The public is invited to attend the special session to observe the court as it hears oral argument in one case. After oral argument, the justices will greet the public in an informal reception. Chief Justice Eric Rosen said bringing appellate cases to the public gives Kansans a front-row seat to a part of the court system they may have never witnessed. “Oral arguments are a

great way to learn how our courts interpret and apply laws relative to the facts of a case while also upholding the rights and responsibilities endowed by the Kansas and U.S. Constitutions,” he said. “As attorneys make their arguments, justices ask them questions to clarify their positions about what the law requires.” Rosen said this interaction between the justices and attorneys can help people better understand the legal issues presented in a case. “In every community we visit, people have told us afterward that they learned something new or have a better understanding about the courts or the law,” he said. Abilene will be the 26th community the court will visit since it began the program 15 years ago. In 2011, the Supreme Court began conducting special

sessions outside its Topeka courtroom. That year, it marked the state’s 150th anniversary by convening in the historic Supreme Court courtroom in the Kansas Statehouse. The court returned to the Statehouse for another special session in January 2025.

Since 2011, the court has conducted special sessions in Colby, Concordia, Dodge City, El Dorado, Emporia, Garden City, Great Bend, Greensburg, Hays, Hiawatha, Hutchinson, Kansas City, Lawrence, Lansing, Logan, Louisburg, Maize, Manhattan, Overland Park, Parsons, Pittsburg, Salina, Topeka, Wichita, and Winfield. Learn more about the court’s visit to Abilene at kscourts.gov/travel-docket.

Kansas lawmakers consider bill to close 'competency loophole'

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas lawmakers are considering legislation aimed at preventing potentially dangerous defendants from being released from custody after being found incompetent to stand trial and not meeting the standards to be involuntarily committed.

On Feb. 4, 2026, Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson joined prosecutors, representatives of the Attorney General's office, and lawmakers in testifying before the Senate Committee on Judiciary in support of Senate Bill 374. The measure would amend state criminal procedure laws governing how courts evaluate, treat, and monitor defendants ruled incompetent, including rules for inpatient and outpatient treatment, certification of competency, and involuntary commitment.

Supporters say the bill would close what has become known as the "competency loophole," which can allow defendants facing criminal charges to be released because of gaps in existing commitment statutes. Addressing the issue has become a priority for the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association. This bill is about putting public safety first," Thompson said. "We have statutes that don't always give courts the information and tools they need to keep dangerous individuals in custody to receive treatment."

Prosecutors around the State have worked together for months to draft legislation to fix this problem. State Senator Jeff Klemp introduced the bill last week, relating to a case within his district.

The U.S. Supreme Court has found that defendants who are found incompetent to stand trial and it is not foreseeable that they will become competent can have their case dismissed. If a medical professional does not find that person to be a harm to self or others, that person cannot be involuntarily committed either. When those two things happen, a person pending serious charges could be released back to the public. Prosecutors argue that the gap creates a risk to public safety.

Supporters pointed out cases in other states where similar laws have been revised, as well as an incident in Riley County, Kansas, in which a defendant charged with attempted murder was released after being deemed incompetent and then ended up murdering someone. "We don't want to wait for another tragedy before we act," Thompson said, "and we have several pending cases that this could happen if we don't fix this loophole."

Several prosecutors and state officials testified in favor of the bill, including Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe, Sedgwick County Deputy District Attorney Aaron Breitenbach, Deputy Attorney General Jessica Domme of the Kansas Attorney General's Office, and Shawnee County District Attorney Mike Kagay, who also submitted written testimony.

Supporters of the legislation say SB 374 would provide clearer legal authority for courts and mental health providers to treat defendants while protecting the public.

The bill remains under review by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Public K-State Salina lecture to explore how everyday people can advance the common good

SALINA — The February Civic Lecture Series discussion at Kansas State University Salina will explore how collective action, shared purpose and people-powered organizing can make a difference across Kansas communities.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, K-State Salina's Civic Lecture Series will feature "The Power of People to Impact the Common Good," a community discussion about what is possible and how everyday people can move the common good forward, together.

Leading the discussion is Ben MacConnell, the Great Plains coordinator at the Direct Action and Research Training, or DART, Center. MacConnell has spent 25 years in the DART network in a variety of roles, most recently serving in Kansas and Nebraska, helping to establish and staff new organizations across both states.

MacConnell believes that change doesn't start with institutions — it starts with people. Across communities, the solutions to housing insecurity, gaps in health and mental health care, substance abuse, and over-incarceration already exist. What's missing is the public will. The "Power of People to Impact the Common

Good" lecture will take place at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the K-State Salina College Center Conference Room at 2310 Centennial Road.

Admission is free, and guests can bring an outside lunch or purchase a meal from K-State Salina's Centennial Dining. For more information, visit the Civic Lecture Series website.

The goal of K-State Salina's Civic Lecture Series is to develop a more informed community committed to openly discussing topics of civic importance.

As the nation's first operational land-grant institution, Kansas State University has served the people of Kansas, the nation and the world since its founding in 1863 — and it continues to set the standard as a next-generation land-grant university. K-State offers an exceptional student experience across three physical campuses and online offerings, meeting students where they are and preparing them to achieve their personal and professional goals. The university is committed to its mission of teaching, research and service through industry-connected programs, impactful research-driven solutions, and a sharp focus on community engagement and economic prosperity.



Employees of Memorial Health System (MHS) in Abilene participated in another "Jeans Day" fundraiser throughout the month of January. Employees make a donation, of at least \$2, and are allowed to wear blue jeans at work. A total donation of \$892 was presented to Laundry Love of Abilene.

any kind. If you'd like to learn more, get involved, or support the work, visit the Laundry Love of Abilene Facebook page.

Laundry Love brightens the lives of thousands of people through love, dignity, and detergent, and gives a fresh start to neighbors in need. As part of a nationwide movement, Laundry Love partners with local groups and laundromats to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and families who could use a little extra support.

The monthly Jeans Day fundraiser is organized by the MHS Employer of Choice (EOC) Council.

In Abilene, free laundry nights are held every third Thursday, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (sign-up begins at 5:45 p.m.). Volunteers cover the cost of up to five loads per household, offering help without judgment and no income requirements of

Pictured from left are: Traci Jurgensen, EOC Council member; Jenn Chaput, EOC Council member; Tori Bowers, EOC Council member; Tanya Rader, EOC Council member; Wendi Pratt, Laundry Love of Abilene team member and MHS employee; Holly Walker, Laundry Love of Abilene Coordinator and MHS employee; Pam Schoemaker, EOC Council member; Sara Brown, EOC Council member; and Sarah Veach, EOC Council member.

CDBG Road Show Coming to Beloit to Highlight Community Development Funding Opportunities

Public Also Invited to Attend North Central Regional Planning Commission Strategy Session Following CDBG Road Show

BELOIT, KS, February 6, 2026 — The North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC), based in Beloit, Kansas, is partnering with the Kansas Department of Commerce to host a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Road Show to help communities learn about CDBG funding opportunities available to support local improvement projects.

The first CDBG Road Show will take place in the North Central region on February 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, at the Fort Hays Tech North Central Conference Room in the Severance Student Union on the Beloit Campus, located at 3033 U.S. Highway

24 in Beloit. The Road Show will continue at six additional locations across Kansas over the following month. For more information, please visit www.kansascommerce.gov/cdbg/roadshow/.

The CDBG Road Show will provide an overview of current CDBG funding programs, guidance on developing strong and competitive applications, and opportunities to connect with resources and regional partners. The Kansas Department of Commerce CDBG team will discuss eligible project types, application requirements, and funding opportunities related to Community Facilities, Housing, Water and Sewer Infrastructure, and other programs. Time will also be allotted for project planning discussions and questions with Commerce and NCRPC staff.

The event is free and open to the public and will be especially relevant for local government officials, economic

development organizations, engineers, architects, local project champions, and others involved in community improvement projects.

Pre-registration is requested. To register for the CDBG Road Show, visit <https://forms.gle/LHJ4Z2wkJU38vE3SA>.

Following the CDBG Road Show, NCRPC invites attendees and other regional stakeholders to participate in a brief strategy session focused on shaping the region's economic development priorities for the next five years. This session will help inform the development of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is currently underway. The strategy session will include a complimentary lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m. and will conclude at 2 p.m. Participants may attend the morning Road Show, the afternoon strategy session, or both.

To register for the NCRPC strategy session, visit <https://forms.gle/>

cgBtycUEQMnveeq98. For questions about the CDBG Road Show or the NCRPC strategy session, email communications@ncrpc.org.

About the NCRPC: The North Central Regional Planning Commission is a comprehensive planning and development organization serving a 12-county region in North Central Kansas. Several of its programs and services also extend into much of Kansas. For more information about the NCRPC, visit www.ncrpc.org.

About the Kansas CDBG Program: The Kansas Community Development Block Grant program provides funding to cities and counties to improve the lives of low- and moderate-income Kansans. Administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, the program supports projects in housing, community facilities, and economic development.

RAILER REVIEW

JANURARY EDITION

JANURARY 2026

“Generational snowstorm’, they said...didn’t happen.” -Levi Cronk



Wrestling Senior Night

On January 27th, Herington High school hosted a wrestling meet to honor our seniors in this sport. The seniors recognized were Ethan Urbanek, Colten Gehrke, and Raquel Lawrenz.

Advisory Games

HHS wants to see all students ready for the school day. This includes having twice a week gym advisory. On Tuesday and Friday mornings, before classes start, the kids gather in the high school gym and participate in a game or activity. These games can range from a volleyball/dodgeball tournament to a plastic bag game where the bag needs to be caught or else your team is out. This is a great way to help students wake up in the mornings.



[HTTPS://WWW.HERINGTONSCHOOLS.ORG/](https://www.heringtonschools.org/)

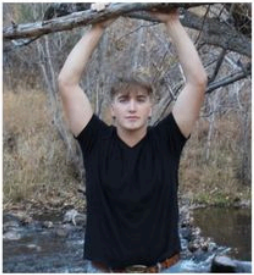
Senior Spotlight

- **Name:** Conley Souza
- **After HS:** Play basketball at KCKCC
- **Goal:** Create a positive impact
- **New Year Resolution:** More time with friends and Family



- **Name:** Ethan Urbanek
- **After HS:** Manhattan Tech School, or a Journey Man
- **Goal:** Make something that lasts
- **New Year Resolution:** To be on his phone less

- **Name:** Kollin Williams
- **After HS:** Military
- **Goal:** to be successful
- **New Year Resolution:** To get better grades



- **Name:** Jeffery Zillyette
- **After HS:** Attend Washburn for radiology technician
- **Goal:** Be happy and live a full life
- **New years Resolution:** To be healthier in his actions

Senior Internships

- **Name:** Karizma Matthews
- **What is your internship for?:** Marion County Courthouse, to be a county attorney and a paralegal
- **What is something you like about the internship?:** The importance of things there and she really enjoys the experience



- **Name:** Aidan Rogers
- **What is your internship for?:** At the fire department to gain experience for future careers.
- **What is something you like about the internship?:** Learning how it all works and how they get their work done.



Congratulations to the following students who won the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Voice of Democracy essay contest.
1st Place: Abigail Gaston, Senior
2nd Place: Donovan Brabender, Senior
3rd Place: Aven Fisher, Senior
 The students received a plaque and a monetary prize from the VFW. Mr. Sweet was also recognized by the VFW Post 10509 for his leadership in organizing this essay through our senior Government classes.
 (Courtesy USD 473)