



# DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS-TIMES



*Getting back to our roots*



CHAPMAN. ENTERPRISE. HERINGTON. HOPE. AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES



## Legacy Nursing Facility is under new ownership By: Brandy Sensmeier

Monday, February 2nd, Legacy Nursing Facility held a ribbon cutting ceremony with the new owners and new name. Legacy Nursing Facility is now Junction Point Post Acute Facility, under the Sweetwater Care umbrella who also owns the old Valley View care facility in Junction City.

Corporate members were in Herington from Colorado, California, and various places in Kansas to celebrate this significant moment in Legacy's history. Many of the Managers are excited for the new changes within the system. Herington officials are also happy to see another company choosing to make Herington a part of its life.

Mayor Eric Gares was at the Ribbon Cutting to welcome the new company to town. "We are glad that you (Junction Point) have chosen to be a part of our Community" said Gares. The staff at Junction Point were observed over the past few weeks and the company members were impressed by their care of the residents.

This partnership is great for everyone involved, the staff, the residents, and the community. By having this new company come in and help build up the already existing facility, helps to build up a community that has lost a lot in the past few years. This will be an exciting new chapter to keep an eye on as it grows, and your local newspaper staff will keep our readers updated.



**Contact Information: Dickinson County News-Times**  
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**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

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

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

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

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

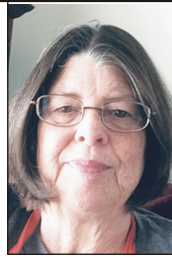
**Our Redeemer Lutheran**  
 802 E. Trapp, Herington  
 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

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

**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

I am preparing for a short journey. My sister-in-law invited me to spend some time in her home just for fun. We are going to watch movies and eat pizza. We are going out for breakfast with some other friends. We will talk and laugh and just enjoy each other's company. It is a busy time as I finish yearly reports and prepare for Lent and Easter. My sister-in-law just became a widow and had major surgery. The time in which we live is high anxiety time. It is tempting in moments like this to put off activities that seem as trivial as movie nights and breakfast dates. Training and experience have me

## CREATING PEACE

convinced that days apart are precisely what I need if I want to accomplish the work before me. Relaxation in any form is good. So, I take brain breaks at work which can mean a short walk around the building, deep breathing, coffee sipping, or even a quick run at FreeCell. You will often find me at a craft table or reading a book. I spend some time every week with family members in person or on the phone. Our nation and the whole world are experiencing tension and high anxiety. This is on top of whatever tension is being felt in each home. May I encourage you to find some break-away moment of relaxing as well. My prayer for all of us is to be able to experience some moments of life-giving hope and joy. I wish you God's Peace.



## THIS DAY IN THE HERINGTON TIMES

125 years ago – 1901  
**HERINGTON EDITOR RECALLS GRASSHOPPERS** – When we lived near Hope, grasshoppers first came during threshing season. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon thick, heavy, dark clouds began gathering between us and the sun. We suspected it was going to rain but soon discovered that it was clouds of grasshoppers settling down upon the ground. On going to the threshing machine, we found the hoppers so numerous that they had already eaten all of the wheat. They proceeded to devour our coats that we had left lying about and proceeded with the stacks of wheat and the threshing machine consuming all but the wheels. Night came soon and we moved to our cornfields to try to save some of it by cutting and laying it into great piles. But, as soon as the morning sun was up, the hoppers commenced business again and in fifteen minutes, all that was left were the stalks which were soon devoured and away the hoppers went southward.  
 100 years ago – 1926  
**TO REBUILD ICE PLANT** – Paul G. Liebmann and associates of El Reno, Oklahoma, recently bought the Herington Ice Plant from Adam Haas. Mr. Liebmann said he is going to rebuild the plant and put in new and modern machinery which will double the plant's capacity. "We believe that when hour improvements are made, Herington will have an ice plant second to none in the state." Before buying the plant, he looked Herington over carefully and was impressed with its railroad facilities, its civic

## ICE PLANT

pride and public spirited citizens. This is the fifth ice plant acquired by Mr. Liebmann, three in Oklahoma and two in Kansas.  
 75 years ago – 1951  
**LOLA'S BEAUTY SHOP OPENS HAT BAR** – Lola's Beauty Shop at 6 West Main has announced the opening of a new Hat Bar at the shop. The Hat Bar will feature the well-known Gage Hats and will be managed by Mrs. B. A. Hildreth. The opening of this new millinery business brings a new business to Herington which should be well received by all ladies desiring something in the line of fine hats. The Saturday announcement will present a spring showing of the newest designs in colorful straw hats and will include a line for the little Miss, a line for teens, and a line for the business girl or the society matron.  
 50 years ago – 1976  
**ANNOUNCE PROMOTIONS** – Two officers of the First National Bank of Herington received promotions at the annual shareholders meeting last Monday. Emil A. Brunner who has been a member of the bank's staff since 1952 was promoted to executive vice-president. Charles A. Myers who joined the staff of the First National Bank in 1972, was named as cashier and elected to the bank's board of directors. "We're real pleased to announce the two promotions," said James K. Smith, president of the First National Bank.  
 Herington Historical Society & Museum, 800 S. Broadway. Hours: 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. – markcwill1963@gmail.com



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## STUDENT ART SHOW

The Dickinson County Historical Society proudly presents the Dickinson County Scholastic Art Show from February 8-15, 2026. This event showcases the artwork from Dickinson County Schools Grades K-12th. There will be a reception on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm where you can vote on your favorite piece of artwork. During the Art Show there will be reduced admission to tour the Heritage Center and the new Toy Tractor Museum. The Dickinson County Historical Society is located at 412 S. Campbell Street in Abilene. For more information, please call the Historical Society at 785-263-2681.

## VIEW FROM THE HILL- Scott Hill

### Week Three Update

The winter storm that shut down many schools last Monday did not slow down the Legislature. The short duration of the legislative session made it important to continue the introduction of the bills, committee hearings, and legislative sessions that result in modifications to our state's laws. The cold weather has hampered many outdoor activities and made life a little more difficult for those who are out in the weather. I can assure you that the weather and the pace inside the Capital was more heated than the outdoor climate. The Senate judiciary committee has had hearings on modifying the lockup of juveniles arrested for a crime. Some of the discussion involves increasing the length of time that a juvenile can be in detention and increasing the severity of punishment when the juvenile is in possession of a firearm. Hearings related to Pharmacy Benefit Managers have been held in the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance committee. These hearings have attracted significant amounts of testimony, often with contradictory statements between opponents and proponents. Legislation that was passed this week and my vote:  
 Senate Bill 244: This bill contained language to address two issues related to an individual's birth sex. The first was to clarify that the legislature expects accurate reporting of the birth sex on the birth certificate and all other government documents that use the birth certificate as a

source document. The second issue expressed the legislature's requirement that an individual's birth sex determines which restroom they will use in government owned buildings. This bill passed the Senate 30 to 9. I voted aye on SB244.

- Senate Concurrent Resolution 1615: This resolution honored the life of slain leader Charlie Kirk by recognizing his birthday as "Charlie Kirk Day." Significant debate was held before the Resolution passed 30 to 9. I voted aye on SCR1615.
- Senate Bill 254: State and local benefits including in-state college tuition have been enjoyed by individuals in Kansas illegally. This legislation prohibits illegal aliens from receiving state and local benefits. I support legal immigration; however, we should not be incentivizing any illegal behavior including illegal immigration. The bill passed 30 to 9. I voted aye on SB254.
- Senate Bill 184: We have a fund to help clean up dry cleaning chemical spills. Due to inflation, the fund was insufficient to cover clean-up costs. This legislation increased the assessment on dry cleaning. The bill passed 37 to 2. I voted yes for this statute, which is designed to fund the cost of these chemical spills. A big thank you to each of you who contacted me either by distance or in person. The volume of mail during session makes it difficult to respond in a timely manner, however I read all mail sent and encourage you to continue with your communications.

## Songs of the Flint Hills

Poems, stories & lyrics celebrating Kansas Flint Hills land and people by Annie Wilson – named "Flint Hills Balladeer" by the Kansas Governor

### Watershed Lake Part I: Winter Ride

I lean up and rock back to the rhythm of my horse's last long strides pulling us up the hill, the iced air shocking and energizing as we reach the top of the rise.

We see a band of whitetail deer – eyes upon us - freeze a long moment, the break off to the east alternately running and leaping, disappearing over the limestone ridge.

I look ahead down into the deep timbered bowl, behind the lacy network of winter-bare branches, to the watershed lake in the center, a vast treasure of brilliant winter blue in the dormant brown prairie.

The steep trail down is loud in crackling frozen leaves and brittle burr oak acorns that pop beneath my horse's hooves.

We wade through the frost-capped purple buckbrush berries out onto the timbered delta: a tangle of beaver-downed trees.

Mist rises from the water as we stand along the edge. The sun

appears just over the dam, sending a blinding path of solid gold across the water to my feet.

Wood ducks glide across it, momentarily lost in the luster. They see us and lift off the water, the swish of their wings audible through their echoing trill.

Behind them is the dam: that odd straight line of earth, one of many imposed on this river system, inevitably proclaiming human interference in a seemingly wild place.

The glistening acres of water have been impounded on their way south by this massive berm, hosting an astounding quantity of timber and mammals, waterfowl and aquatic life foreign to these thin strands of intermittent, upland streams.

Many of these networks of mid-size dams were built in the 1960s, paid for by the Kansas government after the 1951 Flood to reduce the periodic, catastrophic flooding plaguing downstream communities.



Constructed along upper watersheds on private land, they were an alternative to the enormous federal reservoirs which tragically condemned and inundated private homes, entire communities, and rich bottomland.

In the meantime, each watershed lake has provided habitat for new wildlife, as well as fishing, hunting, swimming, boating and other recreational benefits, plus a critical water supply for humans and livestock in times of drought.

Just as the miracle-drug penicillin seemed to free us from the tragedy of infection, I expect the engineers of those days envisioned these watershed dams to be the perfect structural cure for the scourges of flood, erosion and drought.

But did the dams also create an unforeseen ecological deficit for which Nature – who has no say – has paid dearly, and which will cost us in the future?

(Part II next week) See other stories & songs of the Flint Hills at [www.talgrassexpress.com](http://www.talgrassexpress.com)

## 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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**Friday, February 6:** Cheeseburger OR Fish, Roasted Potatoes, Peas, Bun, Apricots  
**Monday, February 9:** Ham & Beans, Cole-slaw, Ambrosia Brownie, Cornbread  
**Tuesday, February 10:** BBQ Meatballs on Bun, Scalloped Potatoes, Peas, Bananas  
**Wednesday, February 11:** Beef Tips & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Mixed Fruit, Wheat Roll  
**Thursday, February 12:** Smother Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potato Mixed Vegetables, Tropical Fruit, Wheat Roll

**Hilltop Community Center**  
2 South A St. • Herington • 785-258-2956

**Friday, February 6:** Cheeseburger on Bun, Lettuce & Tomato, Roasted Potatoes, Peas, Fruit  
**Monday, February 9:** Ham & Beans, Corn Bread, Coleslaw, Ambrosia Salad  
**Tuesday, February 10:** Taco Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Spanish Rice, Tortilla Chips & Salsa, Fruit  
**Wednesday, February 11:** Beef Tips & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Mixed Fruit, Hot Roll, Cookies  
**Thursday, February 12:** Smothered Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Tropical Fruit, Wheat Bread

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**Misc.**  
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**SUDOKU**

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5	9			6	7		
	3			9			
	6				8		
4			1				8
				4	1		2
		8		7			6
							6
7					5		
1	8			4	3	5	

Level: Advanced

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	6	9	5	3	7	9	2	8	1
1	8	8	5	2	6	9	4	7	1
9	7	2	1	8	7	8	5	6	6
5	9	7	6	7	2	8	1	8	9
2	8	1	4	7	8	6	7	8	9
8	7	6	9	8	3	5	2	4	7
6	5	8	7	1	3	1	9	2	8
4	1	4	6	2	6	5	7	3	8
5	9	1	4	7	8	7	2	3	8

ANSWER:

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**Submitted by Leesa Hettenbach**

This year will be the celebration of our Country's 250 th Birthday. To help promote this wonderful event, Leesa Hettenbach, Daughters of the American Revolution Abilene Chapter Chairman of the American 250! Committee and the Chapman Public Librarian, Jennifer, held a birthday poster event. Children were invited to the library in January to use patriotic cut-outs, markers, glitter glue, ribbon and paint to make posters to display around Chapman. The Library provided cut-outs that included the USA Flag, Bald Eagle, American 250! Sign, Our Founding Fathers, plus several other designs. Leesa provided poster-board and additional supplies to enhance the project. A good time was had by all. The Abilene DAR Chapter and the Chapman Public Library appreciates the participation by the youth.



Picture: Posters displayed at the Chapman Public Library.



Fun group picture with the children working at the table with Abilene DAR member, Leesa Hettenbach.

L-R Front Row: Addison Gilbert, Abigail Boley, Presley Bogenhagen and Shelby Johnson. Back Row: Harlow Luffman, Abe Fisher, Santi Mortero, Marlie Boogart (hidden), Grace Hanback and Leesa Hettenbach.



L-R: Hadley Haverkamp, Adabella Maes and Rylee Estelle

<p><b>POSTMASTER</b> Send change of address to: Dickinson County News-Times P.O. Box 109, Herington, KS 67449</p> <p><b>SUBSCRIPTION RATES</b></p> <p>Digital Only ..... \$38.00</p> <p>(tax is included in all prices) Periodical's Postage Paid at Herington, KS 67449</p>	<p align="center"><b>DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS-TIMES</b></p> <p align="center">SERVING HERINGTON, AND SURROUNDING AREAS</p> <p><b>TO SUBMIT NEWS:</b> Dickinson County News-Times welcomes news and will print it as it fits our guidelines. The best way to submit news is to e-mail it to <a href="mailto:DK.CO.NEWSLETTERS@GMAIL.COM">DK.CO.NEWSLETTERS@GMAIL.COM</a>, or drop off/mail it to P.O. Box 109, Herington, KS 67449.</p> <p><b>TO ADVERTISE:</b> Dickinson County News-Times offers retail and classified advertising. We can build an ad campaign to fit your budget and reach our loyal readership. For all advertising placements, please email <a href="mailto:DK.CO.NEWSLETTERS@GMAIL.COM">DK.CO.NEWSLETTERS@GMAIL.COM</a>, call our office, 785.524.4200, or mail it to P.O. Box 109, Herington, KS 67449.</p> <p><b>SUBSCRIPTIONS:</b> Questions and updates regarding subscriptions should be sent to <a href="mailto:dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com">dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p align="center"><b>ADVERTISING AND NEWS DEADLINE - FRIDAYS AT NOON</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>JLS GROUP LLC</b></p> <p align="center">· DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS-TIMES · · THE HILL CITY TIMES · · LINCOLN SENTINEL-REPUBLICAN ·</p> <p><b>DALE WORLEY - OWNER - JLS GROUP</b> <b>LAUREN HOUCHEMS-PUBLISHER/PAGINATOR</b> <b>BRANDY SENSMEIER-EDITOR/OFFICE</b> <b>ANNA KRISTEK-GRAPHIC DESIGNER</b></p>
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## KDOT accepting applications for \$32 million available through TA Program

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is accepting applications for \$32 million in available grant funding for construction projects through the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. These funds help communities design and build non-motorized

forms of transportation projects that can have significant local and regional impacts. Eligible projects include the construction of new and improved sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, multi-use paths, crosswalks and more. "The Transportation Alternatives Program helps communities provide safer and more enjoyable ways to walk, bike and roll," said KDOT Active Transportation Manager Jenny Kramer. "Applications with a focus on safety are the most competitive, especially for kids walking and

rolling to and from school." Participants can learn and ask questions during informational repeat webinars taking place at 10 a.m. on Feb. 6, 10 and 11. The webinar link and the link to submit concept papers are both on the TA program webpage, <https://www.ksdot.gov/programs/multimodal-programs/transportation-alternatives>. Funding this round is focused on projects ready to implement and construct during Federal Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 and requires

a 20% local match. Key dates in the process include: Informational webinars – Feb. 6, 10 and 11  
 Concept papers due online (required for application) – 27  
 Concept papers review and feedback – March  
 Application links emailed to eligible applicants – By April 1  
 Applications due on-line – May 15  
 Application review – May-July  
 Awards announced – this fall  
 For questions, email KATE@ks.gov or call Kramer at 785-296-5186.



### 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-ChocolateGanacheGoeyBrownies Lindsey Young



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.)

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

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

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

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).

## EVENTS

4 Feb, Wed  
9 – 9:30am USD 473 FFA Speech @ Clay Center  
9am USD 487 FFA Speech/ Employability Skills @ Clay Center

5 Feb, Thu  
All day USD 473 Regional Sch. Bowl @ TBA  
All day USD 487 Basketball: Middle School  
9:30 – 10:30am USD 473 HS Scholars Bowl- Regionals- TBA  
3:10 – 3:30pm USD 473 Softball Meeting (Coach Cook Library)  
4 – 7pm USD 487 Regional Scholars Bowl  
4:30 – 5:30pm USD 473 MS BBB @ Marysville  
6 – 7pm Post 12 American Legion- Herington  
6 – 7pm USD 473 WR V/JV/G vs Wamego  
7 – 8pm CES 2nd-3rd Grade Concert

6 Feb, Fri  
All day USD 473 WR V @ Rose Hill (Day 1/2)  
4 – 6pm USD 487 HS Scholastic Art Opening  
4 – 5:30pm USD 487 Basketball: Varsity/JV - Homecoming  
4:30 – 5:30pm USD 473 BB V/JV/C @ Valley Heights  
6:30 – 7:30pm VFW Bingo 101 E Main St

7 Feb, Sat  
All day USD 473 WR V @ Rose Hill (Day 2/2)  
All day USD 487 Archery Clearwater  
All day USD 487 Basketball: Middle School  
8 – 9am USD 487 HS Wrestling  
10am USD 473 MS GWR @ Junction City

9 Feb, Mon  
All day USD 487 JH Wrestling: Middle School  
All day USD 487 No Preschool Classes  
9 – 10am Veterans Coffee The Pin Up Cafe  
1pm USD 487 Dismissal  
4:30 – 5:30pm USD 473 MS BBB vs Rock Creek  
6 – 6:30pm USD 473 School Board Pictures  
6:30 – 8:30pm USD 473 BOE Meeting

10 Feb, Tue  
10 a.m. Storytime @ Hope Library  
11 a.m. Fresh conversations, Enterprise Library  
4 – 5:30pm Basketball: Varsity/JV Herington High School  
4:30 – 5:30pm USD 473 BB V/JV/C vs Concordia  
6:30 – 7:30pm VFW and Aux Meeting 101 E Main St

## Supervisor Switch in Herington

(Jan 30, 2026) – Home Health & Hospice of Dickinson County in Herington (HH&H), an affiliate of Memorial Health System in Abilene, is happy to announce the promotion of Registered Nurse Kristen Hajek, to supervisor of the Herington team. Hajek steps into the leadership role following longtime supervisor Shannon Walters' decision to return to full-time direct patient care. Walters will continue serving patients in the Herington area, bringing nearly 25 years of experience with Home Health and Hospice of Dickinson County to the bedside. Her leadership legacy includes building a culture of compassion, stability and excellence within the Herington program.

The leadership transition reflects a shared commitment to compassionate, patient-centered care and continuity of service for the Herington community. Walters, who has led the Herington team for nearly 20 years, will continue serving patients and families directly, while Hajek assumes responsibility for guiding team operations and care coordination.

“Kristen has truly been my right hand for many years, so this transition felt incredibly natural,” Walters said. “She is always a team player, brings a positive attitude to everything she does, and has strong leadership skills that our team respects and trusts. I’ve joked with here that now she gets to handle all the office duties, and I get to spend more time doing what I love most, caring directly for patients. I couldn’t feel more confident having the team in her capable hands.”

Hajek has served the Herington community since 2014 as a registered nurse with HH&H, providing both home health and hospice care. Her background includes caring for homebound patients to prevent rehospitalizations, educating patients and families on diagnoses and medications, delivering wound care and medication management, and supporting individuals and families through end-of-life care.

“This community trusts us during some of the most vulnerable and meaningful moments in life,” Hajek said. “Being able to lead a team that provides compassionate, high-quality care means a lot to me. I’m thankful for this opportunity to support our staff here in Herington to continue to deliver the same level of care our patients and their families deserve, while also helping strengthen and grow our presence in Herington.”

Hajek said her years working alongside Walters helped prepare her for the transition into leadership. “Working alongside Shannon for the last 11 years will allow me to step into her shoes,” she said.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work under her and observe her leadership style, her commitment to both staff and patients, and the way she balances clinical excellence with steady leadership.” As supervisor, Hajek will oversee the Herington office, staff, and care coordination for Home Health and Hospice services in Herington.

“I’m looking forward to investing in our team,” Hajek said.

“Supporting professional growth, strengthening collaboration and ensuring everyone feels valued and heard. In a world where everything in healthcare is changing, our goal is to provide seamless, patient-centered care, and I look forward to helping us maintain the close-knit, personal touch that makes our team so special.”

She also emphasized the organization’s commitment to families in the community. “I’d like the community to know that our Home Health and Hospice team in Herington is committed to providing compassionate, individualized care,” Hajek said. “Whether families need home health services or hospice support, they can trust that our team will walk alongside them with respect, dignity and genuine compassion every step of the way.”

About Home Health and Hospice of Dickinson County Home Health and Hospice of Dickinson County provides compassionate, high-quality home health and hospice services to patients and families throughout Dickinson County and surrounding communities.

Services are delivered by a multidisciplinary team committed to dignity, respect and individualized care.

## Local Journalism Helps Protect Our Community.

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# L CAL NEWS

—Our community depends on it.  

# One team working together for your heart.



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](http://heartcenter.srhc.com).



501 S. Santa Fe Ave., Suite 380 | Salina, KS  
Cardiothoracic Surgery: 785-452-7562 / Cardiology: 785-452-6492



The Abilene Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution ladies gathered at the Seelye Mansion to dismantle the village that was on display during the holidays. They were the group that strategical placed the many businesses, homes, churches, cars, children, carolers, etc. for the mansion tours. It was time for the items to be stored until next year and get ready for the Valentine's dinners on February 13 th & 14 th . DAR is a civic organization that promotes Historical, Patriotic and Educational Events. Plus, the members donate many hours of service throughout the community. Anyone wishing to know more about DAR, please contact Leesa Hettenbach, Membership Chairman, 785-479-1575.

Picture Below L-R  
Leesa Hettenbach, Marlene Howe, April Barker, Judy Lynn, Ann Strunk, and Julie Roller-Weeks.



## Abilene Chapter DAR Minutes

The Abilene Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution met Wednesday, January 14th , at the Abilene Public Library at 11:00 am. Members present were April Barker, Mary Eisenhower, Leesa Hettenbach, Marlene Howe, Joyce Latham, Judy Lynn, Julie Roller-Weeks, Michelle Stephens, Ann Strunk and Cassy Wilson. Ruby Stephens was a guest.

Regent Wilson announced the open rituals: Scripture and Prayer by Marlene; The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Julie; The American's Creed was started by April; Cassy played the National Anthem and Leesa reported the President General's Message was sent out with the minutes. For American 250! Moment, Leesa stated she was going to the Chapman Public Library later in the day to make Birthday Posters. Her DAR School Moment was about Crossnore Communities for Children, who is a recognized leader in helping children who have experienced trauma and reclaim, rebuild, and reimagine the essential belief in a safe dependable home. For a Flag Moment, Leesa said there are 56 USA Flags that represent 50 states, one district, three territories and two commonwealths of the United State of America. Marlene gave a National Defense Report saying that on January 1, 1776, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America. For her American Indian Moment, she gave that Jessie Little Doe Baird, born 1963, is a citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Nation, who was the tribe that met the Mayflower in 1620. Their native language has not been spoken for 150 years.

With help, Jessie has reconstructed the language which is now used. For a Conservation Moment, Marlene suggested using eco-friendly de-icing items such as ash from wood stove, sand and sawdust. These are biodegradable and non- toxic to plants, pet and waterways. Julie gave a DAR Museum Outreach Moment that the Eisenhower Center Exhibit "We the People: Portraits of Veterans in America" has been extended through March. It is showcasing 50 large scale watercolor portraits by artist Mary Whyte honoring Veterans from all 50 states and various walks of life.

Michelle moved the minutes be approved. Judy, Registrar, was pleased to announce Susan Bettles, is Abilene's newest member. Cassy gave a treasurer's report and said a donation for Christmas Stockings was received from the DK CO Community Foundation. Ann gave a quick update on the investment funds.

Julie made the motion, which passed to elect the following delegates Cassy, Michelle, Leesa and alternates Judy, April, Ann to KSDAR State Conference.

At the State Conference Memorial, Dee who passed away last fall and Jane, who passed away on January 5, 2026, will be acknowledged. Julie mentioned the Seelye Mansion could use some volunteers. April gave the program on cemeteries. She talked about where her grandparents are buried in West, VA, and visiting the gravesite. Her parents are buried back at Washington, D.C., in the Arlington National Cemetery. She told stories about both services. April shared the meaning of coins left on headstones.

It is a sign of respect and a way for Veterans to communicate with the deceased family that they visited. The denomination signifies the visitor's relationship to the fallen soldier: a penny means they visited, a nickel indicates they trained together, a dime shows they served together, and a quarter signifies they were present when the soldier died. She talked about headstones that have been placed with no remains. This is known as a Cenotaph Memorial. It is frequently used for soldiers lost at sea, victims of war, or people lost in disasters. Part of the program, members shared where they plan to be buried. April emphasized the importance of letting family members know your final wishes. She also passed out information how members can obtain permission to purchase DAR Insignia grave markers. Hostesses April, Ann and Julie were thanked. Refreshments and drinks were served. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 17th , at 11:30.

Leesa Hettenbach  
Recording Secretary

Picture L-R Julie Roller-Weeks, April Barker and Ann Strunk



## Kansas FFA Members Receive business start up grants

MANHATTAN, Kan., Feb. 2, 2026 — The Kansas FFA Foundation has awarded 40 grants of \$500 each to Kansas FFA members to help expand and improve Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects across the state. The investments — totaling \$20,000 — will support student-led, hands-on learning in animal systems, plant systems, agribusiness, and technical pathways. The grants were made possible through the support of corporate and community partners, including Pinnacle Bank, Central Valley Ag, Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, MFA Oil, Harris Crop Insurance, Kansas Soybean Commission, Kansas Corn Commission, United Bank & Trust, and Allan and Deana Sents. “The Kansas FFA Foundation is proud to partner with businesses and organizations to invest directly in student education and entrepreneurship,” said Beth

Gaines, executive director of the Kansas FFA Foundation. “These \$500 grants help young people purchase equipment, improve facilities, and grow projects that teach responsibility, technical skills, and leadership — preparing them for careers in agriculture and related industries.” The following is a listing of grant winners by FFA chapter:

**Arkansas City FFA**

- Adelya Ball
- Reed Clawson
- Lane Jones
- Ella Hoeltzel
- Lila Sullivan
- Steven Taylor
- Eeva Dunstan
- Alonna Rodgers

**Buhler FFA**

- Kayli Snyder
- June Thornton
- Hadley Fields
- Chapman FFA

- Carleigh Abeldt
- Katie Stoffer
- Roper Woods
- Jocelyn Frith

- Cherryvale FFA
- Regan Edwards
- Pete Neis
- Molly Ehrlich
- Cooper Lanham
- Elisabeth Smith

**Labette County FFA**

- Charles Black
- Adyson Gatton
- Caleb Merrick
- Landon Baetz
- Landon Kerr
- Shelby Sprague

- Marysville FFA
- Jacob Behrens

**Mission Valley FFA**

- Kailynn Jacobson
- Ben Sudbeck
- Carson Nemechek
- Rylee Heistand
- Maryn Grady

**Spring Hill FFA**

- Emma Kaiser
- Brant Oplotnik
- Keeler Baker
- Briah Havel
- Tanner Baker
- Zoe Sawin
- Kami Hemphill

# DO YOU WANT A GRADUATION/SPORTS PRINTED EDITION?

This is our first year bring 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 thier dedications in for thier 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 29<sup>th</sup> to support the printed Graduation/Sports Edition  
Invoices will be Sent May 1<sup>st</sup> and Must be paid by May 15<sup>th</sup> to continue.

**Contact us at [dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com](mailto:dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com) or call 785-524-4200 Wed-Fri 11am to 3pm.**

## WHY ALL THE EXCITEMENT?

By: Van Yandell

Colossians 3:23 “ And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”

Americans call the game soccer; the rest of the world calls it football. The World Cup Football games will be held in 2026 in the western hemisphere in the countries of Mexico, The United States and Canada. Governed and regulated by FIFA (Federation International Football Association) and founded in Paris France in 1904, FIFA sets rules, organizes major tournaments, and develops the sport globally.

Comprised of 211 football associations, FIFA's outreach is greater in area than the United Nations. FIFA headquarters are in Zurich, Switzerland. In 1990 a group of us traveled to Brazil to build a church. Our plane landed in Vitoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil early one morning in July. We had been on a night flight from Miami and most were tired. I had been awake most of the flight and my memory is of watching the lightning over the Amazon jungle from 35,000 feet above. For hundreds of miles not a light was to be seen so the lightning show was amazing.

Our international flight had been to Rio de Janeiro. A short lay-over and then a short flight to Vitoria completed our ordeal. Plane seating was a little more spacious then but not much.

We were taken to a hotel in downtown Vitoria and told to “get some rest.” In my case that “rest” word fell on

deaf ears and by the time our hosts left and the rest of my comrades were sound asleep, I hit the streets.

Vitoria was a culture and a scene unlike any I had experienced. Like in many tropical cities, the shops and stores had no front doors. A chain like drape was let down at closing time and hoisted up at opening the next day. Roaming around looking in stores and watching people was exciting and my insatiable and perpetual curiosity was filled to my knee-caps.

Having learned from previous international travel, I exchanged currency as soon as I found a Brazilian bank. There was no language barrier since money and a smile are languages in their own. The unit of currency then was the cruzado and because of a restructuring of the economic system in 1994, became the real (re'-al).

Because of hyper-inflation, the economy went mostly belly-up and some action had to be taken. I remember receiving 1600 cruzados one day for each U.S. dollar and two days later that number had increased to 2000 per dollar. Seeing thousands of worthless coins laying on the streets made an economic statement. Walking down a side street, the sounds of cheering and yelling had me wondering what was happening and following the shouting, I found a café-bar with dozens of people in the bar and on the sidewalk. They were watching a

TV on the wall over the bar.

I supposed they were watching a ball game of some type, regarding the assembly as typical; I moved on down the street. Soon another café-bar with the same type of gathering of people was found.

Brazil was in a World Cup match with Bolivia and the city was on fire with enthusiasm. I assumed the entire country was experiencing that same excitement and later discovered it was the entire world.

Americans being inundated with sports on the local and national level, for the most part, cannot relate to international sports. Our baseball World Series and American football Super Bowl create an excitement in-country, but there is nothing like the international camaraderie and joining of the world like with the World Cup. Later on into the competition, Brazil won their game. Several of the young people I had gotten to know came by the hotel after our work day and asked me to go on a ride-along with them. We rode around the city waving the green and yellow Brazilian flag. Horns were honking and people cheering all over Vitoria and I'm sure all over Brazil. I was a Brazilian for a day.

On our final Saturday working on the church, we were pouring a sidewalk. Brazil was playing Argentina that day.

Just before noon, one of our Brazilian concrete mixers came to me, pointed to his

watch and said “football, ciao.” Ciao (chow) is goodbye! Nothing took precedence over watching the game. Oh, if Christians could develop a small portion of that enthusiasm for the Gospel. The World Cup is coming in 2026 to eleven U.S. cities.

A mission field will exist like seldom seen. Our orders are to preach this gospel (Matthew 28: 18-20). What a phenomenal opportunity! The projected attendance potentially will be up to ten million international visitors in the three designated countries.

Acts 1: 8 “But 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.”

The “uttermost” is coming to the western hemisphere and North America this year. Let's not waste this golden opportunity to share Christ with the world.

We must always teach that eternal salvation is attained by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) in Christ Jesus crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (1 John 1: 9), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive in to Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is [vmy3451@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://KansasComeback.com).

# Prairie Doc Perspective

“Insomnia”

By Kelly Evans Hullinger, MD, FACP

Difficulty sleeping is an 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 you 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).

## Budget-friendly Valentine's Day ideas

Save on Valentine's Day festivities with a homemade meal, like a heart-shaped pizza at home.

The National Retail Federation indicates Valentine's Day is the fifth largest spending event in the United States after the winter holidays and Mother's Day. Each February, people clamber to get gifts for their sweethearts and create romantic memories through fine dining and decadent desserts.

According to Finder, a tool used to navigate complex decision-making processes, Americans were expected to spend a combined \$50 billion on gifts and activities in 2021, with gifts averaging \$187. Men tend to spend more than women on Valentine's Day.

Everyone may be spending more on Valentine's Day this year due to inflation. In 2021, used cars and trucks, oil, meats and poultry, airline fares, and women's apparel were just some of the items that increased significantly in price. Finding ways to be frugal may be challenging this February, but these

ideas are a start.

### DIY card

While a card may be the smallest purchase on your shopping list, you can still save an average of \$3 to \$5 on a card by making one yourself or sending a free digital greeting.

### Dine in

Restaurants are popular options for couples on Valentine's Day, but they can be busy and prices may be inflated. Many also offer limited prix fixe menus. By making a meal at home and picking and choosing less-costly ingredients, couples can save a substantial amount of money.

### Be flexible with jewelry

You don't have to spend a fortune to make an impression with gifts. Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but other stones are often less costly. Try giving a birthstone as an alternative. If gold is out of your price range, many sterling silver options are just as beautiful. In addition, consider warehouse retailers for jewelry purchases, as they may have lower costs.

### Frugal flowers

The cost of roses definitely goes up near Valentine's Day, so consider giving another flower. Lilies can be lovely or maybe that special someone has a signature flower. A flowering plant, which will cost less than many bouquets and will last far beyond Valentine's Day if given care, is another alternative to consider.

### Save on chocolate

Sweet treats are the name of the game, but many popular chocolate boxes can be pricey this time of year. Plan ahead and keep a stockpile of chocolates from Halloween or Christmas. Then use floral wire or pipe cleaners to turn bite-sized packages into a handmade chocolate bouquet. Otherwise, purchase various chocolate bars and package them with hot chocolate, chocolate cookies and other decadent offerings in a themed gift basket.

Saving on Valentine's Day comes down to being creative and focusing on the sentiment rather than the price.

# WHAT'S ON at the LIBRARY

Herington Public Library  
102 S Broadway, Herington KS 67449  
Phone: 785-258-2011  
Email: [director@heringtonlibrary.org](mailto:director@heringtonlibrary.org)  
Webpage: [herington.lib.nckls.org](http://herington.lib.nckls.org)

## February 2026

### NEW Books on order

- Death of a Groom by M C Beaton
- Jigsaw by Johnathan Kellerman
- Felicia's Favourites by Danielle Steel
- A Porcupine Wedding by Cynthia Rylant
- Woman Down by Colleen Hoover
- Antihero by Gregg Hurwitz
- Dear Debbie by Freida McFadden
- The Viper by Brad Meltzer
- Fundamentals of Being A Good Girl by Julie Murphy
- Enola Holmes and the Clanging Coffin by Nancy Springer
- Cold Zero by Brad Thor

### DID YOU KNOW?

For those taking on-line classes, the library offers test proctor services. Please contact the library director to arrange for testing. Phone: 785-258-2011.

### upcoming EVENTS

Mon, Feb 2nd	Book Club 7 PM - anyone is invited to come.
Thur., Feb 5th	Rotating books will be exchanged.
Sat., Feb. 7th	Valentine event 1:30 to 3 PM
Tue., Feb 10th	Board Meeting 4:30 PM
Mon., Feb 16th	Library is closed for President's Day

**SPRING Storytime**

All ages are invited to create Valentines at the library on Saturday, Feb. 7 using a variety of materials. The come-and-go event will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Use the basement door to enter. There is no charge but donations are always welcome.

Mark your calendars for spring story time to begin March 26 at 9 a.m. at the library. "Fairy Tales" will be the theme. It will continue through May 14.

Summer Reading starts May 28 for preschoolers through adults. Weekly sessions will be held and fun prizes awarded for those reaching reading goals.

## SRHC Trauma Center receives re-verification from American College of Surgeons

(January 29, 2026) –Salina Regional Health Center has been re-verified as a Level III Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons. Trauma centers verified by the ACS must undergo a lengthy review every three years to insure standards for optimal care of injured patients are being met. The ACS verification program looks at all aspects of trauma care from the prehospital phase to the rehabilitation process. Verified trauma centers also must remain focused on performance improvement to confirm processes in place lead to the best possible patient outcomes. Salina Regional was first verified as a Level III Trauma Center in 2012. This is the fifth time the hospital has been verified by the ACS. Since the Trauma Program was implemented at Salina Regional, a team of individuals with highly defined roles are on stand-by around the clock—ready to descend upon the emergency department whenever a trauma alert is received.

Team members include a trauma surgeon, emergency department physician, trauma nurse, intensive care nurse, surgical nurse and staff from pharmacy, radiology, laboratory, blood bank, respiratory care, security and chaplaincy.

“The American College of Surgeons’ re-verification of Salina Regional Health Center as a Level III Trauma Center reaffirms our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional trauma care to patients in Saline County and across north central Kansas,” said Dr. Justin Klaassen, a trauma surgeon and medical director for the Trauma Program at Salina Regional. “This recognition highlights the expertise, hard work and teamwork of our EMS partners, emergency department clinicians, surgeons, nursing and rehabilitation staff, and the many support personnel who contribute to the care of critically injured patients. It also underscores our continued involvement within the Kansas Trauma System.”



**CONTACT US AT**  
**[DK.CO.NEWSTIMES@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DK.CO.NEWSTIMES@GMAIL.COM)**  
**OR**  
**[785-524-4200](tel:785-524-4200)**

## HERINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY Annual Report 2025

The library had 1,768 open hours in 2025!	689 people have a card at our library	7,143 people walked through our doors last year	The collection contained 9,864 items
Print materials totaled 8,391	Physical videos totaled 1,347	Total use of electronic materials 4,116	Contributing to a total of 13,856 checkouts!
We lent our items to other libraries 258 times	1,095 uses of public computers	3,497 WiFi sessions	<b>READ</b>
And brought in 558 items upon patron request	138 total programs offered	3,100 people attended in total!	
	herington.lib.nckls.org 102 S. BROADWAY HERINGTON, KS 67449 7852582011		

## Willowdale 4-H club January Meeting

We held our Willowdale 4-H monthly meeting on Monday January 12th, 2026, at 7 00 at Sterl Hall. The flag salute and club pledge was led by Josie and Jace. Role call was answered by “if you could travel anywhere, where would it be?” Before the meeting our photography club leader held a project meeting to talk about a winter photo challenge, she also shared tips about taking pictures from different angles. The 4-H members made 36 valentine’s cards for that will be delivered to village manner. The Willowdale 4-H club received a 100\$ grant from the DK 4-H foundation for the birthday cake kits. At he meeting the members voted to have a boys and girls basketball team. For the leaders report, Jody talked about 4-h days being held on February 14th at Emmanuel church. She encouraged members to participate at 4-h day. For recreation we played tag. Our next meeting will be held on Monday February 9th at 7:00 at Sterl Hall. Each family should bring cake mix and frosting to go towards the birthday cake kits.

- Camden Depew-Willowdale Reporter

# Create Some Valentines!

Saturday, Feb. 7 1:30 to 3 p.m.  
Herington Public Library  
**All Ages Welcome!**  
Free Event - Donations Welcome  
102 South Broadway - basement docr  
785-258-2011

## HOLLAND SUNFLOWERS 4-H

The monthly meeting of the Holland Sunflowers 4-H club met on January 19, 2026 at Rural Center Elementary School at 7 p.m. The meeting was called to order by president Carleigh Abeldt. The Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H pledge was led by Dally Emig and Cohen Abeldt. Junior Song leader, Andy Felbush led the club in singing the "Itsy-bitsy spider." The roll call question was "a goal I have in 4-H this year" and was answered by twenty-five members, two leaders, and one guest.

During the program, a member of the month talk was given by Kyser Brownback. Axie Shrack gave a project talk about how to strengthen your calf's neck so it will hold its head up in the show ring. Stetson Shrack gave a project talk about his miniature farm equipment display in which he will exhibit at the fair this summer. Devon Kamm gave a project talk about her blue-ribbon woodworking project she made for the fair last year. Dally Emig gave a health and safety tip about how to be safe around cattle that are not your own and may not be calm. KaAnne Baetz gave a health and safety tip about how to be safe and not fall when walking in places where ice can be present. Recreation leader, Cora Hedstrom led club members in playing a game called Ships and Sailors. In this game we had to perform certain moves for different commands given by Cora until all but one member was out. Refreshments of cookies and Kool-Aid were served.

During the business portion of the meeting, five communications were read. The secretary Ava Hedstrom read the minutes and they were approved. The treasurer, reporter, and counsel representatives all gave reports.

Leader Jo Emig gave a leader's report reminding us about spring meat judging. Bailey Hedstrom also gave a leader's report reminding club members to sign up for 4-H days and the first-year sheep and swine grant. There was no unfinished business. In new business we discussed making a flyer to send to businesses to promote the premium sale at the fair. We adjourned the meeting by standing and reciting the 4-H motto: To Make the Best Better.

Submitted by Autumn Felbush, reporter



## Give FFA Day will celebrate and support future Kansas leaders

Manhattan, Kan. - Ensuring students have the resources to thrive is the Kansas FFA Foundation's underlying goal, and on Thursday, February 26, 2026, Give FFA Day will inspire supporters nationwide to come together to set a new giving record. Held during National FFA Week, the 24-hour giving challenge fuels opportunities for more than one million FFA members nationwide and nearly 14,000 students in Kansas who are developing into the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers in agriculture and beyond. In Kansas, the goal is to raise \$50,000. The Kansas FFA Association, part of the National FFA Organization, helps students discover their potential through hands-on experiences, leadership development, and career exploration as a part of school-based agricultural education programs in high schools. Through the Kansas FFA Foundation, donations made on Give FFA Day directly

support these life-changing opportunities, including providing FFA jackets to members in need, funding leadership conferences and competitions, expanding career-readiness programs, and supplying resources and support for agriculture teachers year-round. "Give FFA Day is an investment in the future of agriculture and in the young people who will lead it," said Beth Gaines, Kansas FFA Foundation Executive Director. "Every single gift—large or small—creates opportunities for Kansas FFA members to learn, grow, and thrive. Together, we are building a legacy that ensures future generations of students can experience the full impact of FFA." This year, generous supporters are doubling the impact of donations up to \$30,000. Matching gifts have been pledged by Ag Partners Cooperative, Mustang Seeds, John and Jennifer Niemann, Jerry and Anita DeWeese, Mark Mayfield, S&S Rock Crushing, ICEV, Orrin and Beth Holle, Re-

gional Veterinary Services (David and DeRhonda Newby), and the Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees. The goal for 2026 is to raise \$50,000 in 24 hours, with hopes of surpassing last year's milestone of more than \$60,000 raised in support of Kansas FFA.

"FFA shaped who I am as a leader, and I see that same transformation happening in today's students," said Yancy Wright, Chairman of the Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees. "When we give on Give FFA Day, we're not just making a donation—we're empowering young people with the confidence, skills, and experiences they need to lead agriculture and our communities into the future."

To make a gift on Give FFA Day, visit <http://bit.ly/4pO4edO>, call 785-410-7313, or email [foundation@kansasffa.org](mailto:foundation@kansasffa.org).

The Kansas FFA Association is a statewide organization of

nearly 14,000 agricultural education students across 244 chapters in Kansas. It is part of the National FFA Organization, a national youth organization of 1,027,273 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture. Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education

The Kansas FFA Foundation exists to enable Kansas Agriculture Education and FFA programs to empower future leaders and their passions. The Kansas FFA Foundation does this by developing and sustaining collaborative relationships resulting in financial support and service opportunities for the Kansas FFA and its members. Visit [www.ksffa.org/foundation](http://www.ksffa.org/foundation) for more information