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# THE HILL CITY TIMES

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

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Vol. 149, No. 35

Wednesday, February 18, 2025



## Amber's karate adventure

Saturday, Sensei Joe and Amber traveled to VA state championship AAU

She learned from three amazing karateka in kumite and shared the tatami with 2020 Olympic Gold medalist Ivet Goranova, and brought home 3 gold and 1 bronze!

Sunday they traveled to Colorado USA Karate Friendship cup

There were smaller brackets, but Kobudo was definitely a test having 7 advanced karateka in the division. She was still able to bring home 1 gold, 1 bronze!

And, this was her first official time in the coaches circle. Woo hoo!



## Honoring Coach Riley

A special trio of former Hill City hoopers was among nearly 50 former players who gathered with longtime Ringneck coach Keith Riley on Friday night to celebrate the retirement of one of the most enduring and successful coaches in Kansas high school basketball history.

Pictured with Riley are, from left, Gary Daily, Danny Dinkel, coach Keith Riley and Burton Ford — three starters from his very first team during the 1968-69 season, which finished 19-4.

Riley took over the Hill City basketball program straight out of college that season and has remained at Hill City ever since. While Friday night marked a retirement celebration, Riley is still coaching, and his Ringnecks have won three of their last four games, including Friday night's 50-45 win over Rawlins County.

Over 58 years at the same school, Riley has recorded more than 800 career victories and led the Ringnecks to three state championships, building a program widely respected across the state for its consistency and competitiveness.

Hill City, Kansas HCHS Alumni Association NWKS Radio 101.9 the Bull Ad Astra Radio - Hutch KSportsImages.com Joey Bahr Photography (Photo courtesy Gary Daily) #kansaspregame



## National Honor Society Inductees

Congratulations to our newly inducted members of the National Honor Society! They are Sarah Christian, Ry-lie Minium (returning member), Hailey Carder, Cora Ashmore, MaryAnne Christian, and Colin Owen. We are proud of your hard work!



## Congratulations Mrs. Green

Congratulations to Mrs. Green on the completion of her masters degree! What an accomplishment. We are proud of you!

BOGUE NEWS - LIZ VANLOENEN

Congratulations to Shaylo Tompkins for winning the spelling bee at the Hill City grade school on Wed. She is in 6th grade and will go to state. Again congratulations!

Bobbie Bell and Liz VanLoenen enjoyed supper from the UMM Ground Hog Supper Wed. night in Hill City. The weather has really been nice. We need some moisture real bad.

Liz had a nice visit with her new great grand daughter, Lucy, in Hoxie last Wed.

Jean Bell and Liz visited Bobbie Bell Friday afternoon. Congratulations to Keith Riley for 58 years of being a basketball coach. It is too bad we can not know when someone is being honored.

The Chosen No. 4 will begin at the Bogue Fellowship hall Sunday night, Feb. 22 at 6:30 pm. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18th. The preacher will administer ashes from 11 to 11:30 am at the Bogue church.

Liz called on Bobbie Holsman Sunday evening.

Bryan VanLoenen attended the funeral of James Walker, Dr. Daddio, in Denver, Colo. Saturday. He was an outstanding man.

Liz visited Eric, Gina, Levi, and Lucy VanLoenen, and Lucille Calleri in Hoxie Monday afternoon.

I hope there was a big turn out for the blood drive, Feb. 11th. We really need donors for the high school scholarships.



## Twirlers perform at half-time

The Hill City Twirl Academy performed during the half time of the boys gmae. Jalynn coaches them and they all did a wonderful performance.



## Fun Friday

A photo of all the fun we had during our 'Fun Friday' Kansas Day library hour lesson.

These awesome students shared some of their prior knowledge and learned a few new things about Kansas Day symbols, Kansas agriculture, & Kansas history. They also enjoyed decorating sunflower cupcakes, the wonderful weather, & new expo markers!

Graham County Farm Bureau will be offering an ag based lesson once a month at the Graham County Library. We enjoyed the students & staff, and are excited to return next month!!

NEWS & ADVERTISING  
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**THE HOUSEMAID**

**To Be Determined!**

ANDON SKLENAR,  
ELIZABETH PERKINS

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

Jan. 10 TBD | Jan 11 TBD



## Lady Ringnecks vs. Norton 2/12/26

Final score 46-21 (Norton)

Points  
Jenna Berland 8  
Rylie Minium 6  
Sabri Rohr 4  
Kamryn Mauck 3

Assists  
Rylie Minium 3  
Jenna Berland 1

## HC boys vs. Norton 2/12/26

Final score 56-59 (Hill City)

Points  
Kason Mauck 26  
Vincent Zohner 24  
Chase Bell 3  
Case Haynes 3  
Blake Harmon 2  
Koby Keiswetter 1

Assists  
Koby Keiswetter 8  
Kason Mauck 2  
Blake Harmon 1  
Chase Bell 1

## Prairie Trails Golf Course News

### Prairie Trails Golf Course 2026 Tournament Schedule

By Bob Dombroski

- April 17 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Hill City High School JV - 1 PM
- April 30 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Northwest Kansas Senior Social 2-Person Scramble - 9 AM. Contact Gary Long, 785-627-6009 or Don Newell, 615-796-4798.
- May 2-3 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - 6th Annual Tee Off Classic 2-Man - 2 Days - 10AM/9AM. Contact Todd Ashbaugh, 620-897-7654 or Nate Budig, 785-743-8070. Tournament includes: Flag Prizes, Mulligan & Meal.
- May 8 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Hill City High School Varsity - 1 PM
- June 6 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Hill City Chamber 4-Person - 9 AM. Contact TBD
- June 20 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - One Man Mulligan - 9 AM - Contact Todd Ashbaugh, 620-897-7654 or Nate Budig, 785-743-8070.
- July 18 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Two Couple Scramble - 9 AM - Contact Todd Ashbaugh, 620-897-7654 or Nate Budig, 785-743-8070.
- July 25 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Four Person Scramble - 9 AM - Contact Todd Ashbaugh, 620-897-7654 or Nate Budig, 785-743-8070.
- August 3-9 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Members' Tournament Week - TBD
- August 22 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Two Person Scramble - 9 AM - Contact Todd Ashbaugh, 620-897-7654 or Nate Budig, 785-743-8070.
- September 17 - Prairie Trails Golf Course - Northwest Kansas Senior Social 2-Person Scramble - 9 AM. Contact Gary Long, 785-627-6009 or Don Newell, 615-796-4798.



Wednesday, February 18, 2026

MCEL Music 10:00am

Thursday, February 19, 2026

MCEL JH Wrestling at Ellis 1:00pm

Friday, February 20, 2026

HS Basketball at Russell 4:30pm

Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting during Seminar

Saturday, February 21, 2026

HS Boys Regional Wrestling at Norton

Monday, February 23, 2026

Think Fast FCCLA

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

ACT for all Juniors

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

No Scheduled Events

Thursday, February 26, 2026

KMEA ISW Wichita

Barton Community College 1:00pm

Friday, February 27, 2026

NO SCHOOL

KMEA ISW Wichita

HS Boys Girls State Wrestling at FHSU

Saturday, February 28, 2026

KMEA ISW Wichita

HS Boys Girls State Wrestling at FHSU

## Graham county youth entrepreneurs challenge winners



1st Place and earned the chance to go to the state KEC event in Manhattan was Kason Mauck with Mauck 9 RC Racing. The business of a traveling RC car race track. Thank You Network Kansas for sponsoring this prize.



2nd place was SC Surface Solutions with the business idea of residential exterior cleaning services. Thank you Network Kansas for sponsoring this prize.



The third place winner was Sippin' Pretty - with their traveling trailer selling lemonade and energy drinks. Thank you Network Kansas for sponsoring this prize.

## Girls Rec Basketball Win



The 3rd and 4th grade girls ended their rec season with 2 wins! Way to go Ringnecks!

## THE HILL CITY TIMES

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

CHECK USD281.COM  
Schedule subject to change without notice

### Community News

There will be a benefit soup supper March 7th at the Graham Co. fair grounds for Cody, Tiffany, and baby Johnson. Raffles will be a gun and 2 quilts, one K-state and one KU!! Doors will be open 5pm-8pm. More info will be available as we get closer to the date.

**Contact Information: The Hill City Times**  
**thehillcitytimes@gmail.com • Phone Hours 785-524-4200**  
**Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 - Noon**

## Literacy night winners



Look at all these literacy night winners! Matt won the estimation jar of bookworms with his guess of 105. There were 111 worms in the jar. Taylor won the book trivia raffle. She answered tons of questions with her family on our giant game board. Brantley was the winner for completing the book character scavenger hunt. Our three door prize winners are Kinsley, Leo, and Wrynna. They all got to build their own prize bag with a new book, bookmark, and candy. We even had prizes for staff this time! Thanks so much to Miss Amber for donating the book bundles for staff! Thanks again to everyone who attended, helped, or donated items!

## Girls Wrestling meets their goal



Congratulations Kya Bell, Sarah Christian, and Emily Smee! After some tough competition at Regionals, these ladies closed out their goal they set months ago and secured their spot in their respective weight classes and are headed to State. Briley Brack finished just a match short and Cady Dooley lost in a blood round, but these girls put everything they had out on that mat. Hard work, grit and determination got them this far, now they reset. They evaluate. They set new goals and they go back to work.

## Graham County Commission Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2026

Commissioner Irby called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with the flag salute with Commissioner Irby, Commissioner Nelson, County Clerk Kendra Robinson, County Attorney Michael Abbott, Road & Bridge Supervisor Wayne Pfeifer, Register of Deeds Dani Roeder, Larry Crouch and Tracey Helberg all present.

**Immediate Business**

The County Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Larry Crouch, swearing him in as Commissioner for District #1. Commissioner Irby moved, pursuant to K.S.A. 19-203 and K.S.A. 25-3905, to appoint Larry Crouch, a resident of County Commissioner District #1, who was nominated by the Republican Party Precinct Committee of County Commissioner District #1, to fill the vacancy in the office of County Commissioner for the unexpired term, effective immediately upon taking and filing the Oath of Office. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried, 2-0.

Graham County Road & Bridge Supervisor, Wayne Pfeifer

Wayne provided the Commissioners with a quote for magnesium chloride dust control. The Commissioners reviewed the quote and discussed the various options

presented by Scotwood Industries LLC. Commissioner Crouch provided feedback regarding how the product would best perform under Graham County conditions and advised Wayne on expected maintenance requirements. Commissioner Irby made a motion to proceed with the Scotwood Industries LLC quote for application on one-half mile at Penokee, consisting of 3,250 gallons at a total cost of \$4,420.00. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-0. Wayne reported that Road & Bridge crews were out blading and were currently working on J Road. He stated they were hopeful to continue working on 12 Mile Road later in the week, possibly Wednesday or Thursday. Wayne further informed the Commissioners that Jarad Allen had been hired and does not currently hold a CDL, and that a plan would need to be developed to assist him in obtaining one. Commissioner Nelson reported that there is an employee within the Road & Bridge Department interested in becoming a certified CDL trainer. He suggested the County could consider a training agreement requiring employees to remain employed with the County for a specified period if the County pays for CDL training. The Commissioners agreed to re-

view this matter further. Graham County Janitor, Ethan Edwards

Ethan informed the Commissioners that he attended the meeting to discuss icing agents, as he had done the previous year when the County discussed switching from glycol. Ethan reported that Gambles is no longer selling liquid magnesium chloride. He stated that he could obtain a 55-gallon drum for \$1,200.00 from Mid-America. The Commissioners agreed that Ethan should proceed with placing the order. Dawson Place Administrator, Brandy Born

Commissioner Irby made a motion to amend the agenda to allow Brandy Born to report at 10:25 a.m. instead of waiting until her scheduled time of 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-0. Brandy reported that Dawson Place currently has 35 elders and would be interviewing for another potential admission later this week, which would likely bring the facility back to full capacity. She also reported that Dawson Place staff attended a Service Excellence training course held at the EMS Bus Barn, which she stated went very well.

Brandy further reported that the KAYS group from the high school would

See "COMMISSION" Pg 10

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

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| <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b><br/>Morland, Kansas<br/>Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5 P.M., Sundays<br/>Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> <p><b>BOGUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br/>Bogue, Kansas<br/>Worship: 9 A.M. Sundays<br/>Sunday School: 10 A.M.</p> <p><b>CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b><br/>122 N. Pomeroy, Hill City<br/>Worship: 9 A.M. and Sunday School: 10:15 A.M.</p> <p><b>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b><br/>206 N. Middle, Hill City<br/>Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.<br/>Worship: 10:35 A.M., Sun., 6 P.M., Sun. 7 P.M., Wed.</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>Nicodemus, Kansas<br/>Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.<br/>Church: 11 A.M.<br/>Bible Study: Wed., 5:30 P.M.</p> <p><b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN</b><br/>223 N. 4th Ave., Hill City<br/>Worship: 9 A.M. &amp; Coffee Fellowship following.</p> <p><b>FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b><br/>8th and Walnut, Hill City<br/>Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.<br/>Worship: 10:30 A.M. Sun.<br/>Youth Program: 6 P.M. Sun.</p> <p><b>GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br/>11th and Hill, Hill City<br/>Worship: 4 P.M. Sunday<br/>Bible Study: 3 p.m. Sunday</p> <p><b>H<sub>2</sub>O CHURCH.TV</b><br/>305 N. Pomeroy, Hill City<br/>5:00 p.m.<br/>Praise - Worship - Message</p> <p><b>HILL CITY CHURCH OF GOD</b><br/>Third and Cedar, Hill City<br/>Worship: 10:30 A.M.</p> <p><b>HILL CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br/>118 N. 4th Ave., Hill City<br/>Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> | <p>Worship: 10:45 A.M.</p> <p><b>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br/>10 N. 10th Ave., Hill City<br/>Masses: 6 P.M., Saturdays; 11 A.M. Sundays</p> <p><b>PRAIRIE HOME UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br/>12 miles south, 1/4 mile East of Hill City on "E" Rd.<br/>Worship: 9:15 A.M.</p> <p><b>RED LINE CHURCH OF GOD</b><br/>3804 H Rd., Palco, Kansas<br/>Worship: 8:45 A.M.<br/>Fellowship: 10 A.M.<br/>Sunday School: 10:30 A.M.<br/>Bible Study: 7 P.M. Wed.</p> <p><b>ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC</b><br/>Damar, Kansas<br/>Mass: 9 A.M., Sundays</p> <p><b>THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF GOD</b><br/>519 N. East, Hill City<br/>Sunday Worship: 10 A.M.<br/>Family Training Hour: 7 P.M., Wednesday</p> <p><b>MORLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br/>Worship: 6 P.M., Sunday<br/>Bible Study: 5 P.M., Sunday</p> <p><b>UNITED METHODIST</b><br/>Palco, Kansas<br/>Worship/Service: 9 A.M.<br/>Fellowship Time: 10 A.M.</p> <p><b>UNITED PARISH OF LENORA</b><br/>Worship: 10:30 A.M.<br/>Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> <p><b>MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST</b><br/>6.5 miles south of Morland, Ks.<br/>Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.<br/>Worship: 10:50 A.M.<br/>AWANA program: 5-7 P.M.<br/>Wed. Men's Prayer, 7 A.M.<br/>Wed. Youth Group, 7 P.M.<br/>Bible Study in Homes, 7 P.M. Wednesdays<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Fellowship Dinner</p> |
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**HILL CITY NUTRITION SITE**

Welcome in House Participants & Carry-Out

**Friday, February 20:** Baked Fish, Macaroni & Cheese, Mixed Vegetables, Tropical Fruit

**Monday, February 23:** Chicken Strips, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Brussel Sprouts, Bread, Peaches

**Tuesday, February 24:** Shepard's Pie, Scandinavian Vegetables, Bread, Mixed Fruit

**Wednesday, February 25:** Chicken Enchilada Casserole, Beets, Tortilla Chips, Tropical Fruit

**Thursday, February 26:** Hamburger Patty, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Tater Triangles, Bun, Fruit Crisp

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## Guest Editorial

### More clarity, and a way forward on "college" sports

A few thoughts about the state of "college" athletics and the notion of taxpayer money supporting it.

First and foremost, the whole thing is a mess. As my long conversations with Gene Taylor (as published in the Mercury ([the last week of January]) show, it's the Wild West, where college kids are getting paid to play, and the amounts are entirely unregulated. That's neither sustainable nor fair, and the problem needs to be addressed yesterday. Not just for K-State - which is at a competitive disadvantage in this scenario, but for the entire industry. Without a level playing field, "college" sports are on a suicide mission.

A big part of the solution is already on hand, with a regulatory body and what amounts to a salary cap. All that has to happen is that colleges have to sign an agreement to bestow legal authority.

That's the first step, the key to everything. Mr. Taylor is advocating strongly for it, as he should. Tip of the cap to him for sharing all that background information - we learned more in that interview than I have known for quite some time. And a salute to him for advocating for a solution.

K-State, KU and Wichita State this past week also began laying groundwork for some sort of request to the state government for money to pay for some part of all of this. Keep in mind that K-State does not put university money into athletics, and hasn't for many years. That makes it unusual

See "Guest" page 5

## Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau - opinion

### Leading through change

Nathan Mentzer  
Allen County farmer

Change of seasons, change of crops, the progress of technology or even physical changes as we watch our families grow and age. Change is inevitable. But when faced with it, we have two choices. We can ignore it and seek comfort on our farm and hope it goes away or adapt and grow with it, becoming stronger and more resilient with each new step we take.

My wife and I farm near Iola, and I am privileged to represent the third Casten Fellows cohort. I am always amazed at the talent Kansas Farm Bureau brings to the table and my cohort represented a wide and diverse cross section of agriculture in Kansas. We also have a diverse set of backgrounds and experiences.

The opportunity to build relationships with such amazing leaders throughout the state and gain insight into how they tackled issues is what originally attracted me to the Casten Fellows program.

A year ago, as our group was starting this journey together we were looking for ways to grow as individuals for the betterment of our communities and our organization. Through this time, we have gotten to know each other, become friends and we are now a group that is comfortable sharing deep conversations and taking on tough issues.

We learned how to discuss issues with a commitment to lean into vulnerability, to stay curious and generous. We have rumbled about the many changes in agriculture and how they have impacted us and Kansas — trade and tariffs, artificial intelligence, farming practices, personal beliefs — and dived into local issues such as access to schools, local economies, fentanyl and the impacts of drug use. Our experience culminated with an international excursion to Israel.

Leading through change has been a big focus for our cohort this year, as we have seen change, not only within our own lives and work operations, but within the Cas-

See "Insight" page 7

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## EXTENTION NEWS

JESSICA BUTTERS, AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES AGENT, K-STATE RESEARCH & EXTENSION, TWIN CREEKS DISTRICT.

### Winter is For the Birds

Winter is a great time to bird watch! Due to limited resources outside, setting out bird feeders will definitely attract feathered friends. But how can we do this in a low-cost, easy way? How do we attract cardinals? And what about this bird flu we heard about a while ago? I have some great insight from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology through their website, All About Birds!

#### Which feeder is best, and what should I fill it with?

I have great luck with tray feeders, which can be hung or set on a pole. Other feeders include tubes and hoppers. When it comes to food, black oil sunflower seed is an economical option that many birds love! It is also easy to keep clean. Buying mixed bird seed, which includes "filler seeds" that birds just push aside, can be a waste of money and make a mess. For instance, some birds don't like some kinds of millet, and striped sunflower seeds have tougher shells. Birds will scrape these seeds to the ground, potentially attracting rodents if you don't rake them up. A good winter food option is suet! Suet is a high-energy block of fat mixed with seeds. The fat stays fresher longer in winter thanks to cold temperatures. Suet will also attract more woodpeckers, who are so fun to watch! Place suet blocks in a wire cage and attach it to a deck or the side of a tree.

#### Where should I put it?

Feeders do best about 10 feet from cover, such as evergreen trees or shrubs. This distance lets your visitors quickly hide from hawks or your cat if their meal is interrupted. Placing feeders any closer to trees may allow squirrels to leap to your feeder and enjoy the snacks you so kindly left out. Another consideration is windows. Placing feeders within three feet of a window lowers the speed at which birds fly into them, rattling their bird brains a bit less. Having a feeder suction-cupped to the window may stop collisions altogether, and will provide better bird viewing!

#### What about the bird flu?

The Kansas Department of Agri-

culture (KDA) had this to say about bird feeders and the current strain (H5N1) of the avian flu: "H5N1 is not currently considered a threat to songbirds that frequent feeders. There is no need to remove bird feeders unless you have poultry on your premises. Keep feeders clean and always wash your hands after handling feeders" (Avian Influenza Frequently Asked Questions, July 2025). If you have poultry and bird feeders, KDA suggests removing the feeders along with other steps. To clean your feeders, soak them in a 1:10 ratio of household bleach to water for 10 minutes twice a month. Rinse the feeder and let it dry before putting it back up. Drying is important to keep feed from molding.

#### How do I attract cardinals and other songbirds?

Kansas has tallied 475 species of birds in the state, and cardinals are just one of them! They particularly like black oil sunflower and safflower seed, the latter of which is great if you attract too many house sparrows, starlings, and squirrels for your taste; they don't like safflower as much. I personally didn't get cardinal visitors until I used a tray feeder; I wonder if some hoppers are too small for their feet to grip? If you like goldfinches, you may want a mesh or sock feeder designed for thistle (or Nyjer) seed, but I have had them visit my tray feeder for

sunflower seeds in winter! Lastly, perhaps the best way of attracting all kinds of birds to your yard is with a bird bath. Fresh water is especially hard to find in winter, and a heated bird bath would definitely attract a wide array of birds. Be sure to clean it out often! If you don't have birds visiting your yard right away, be patient and keep the food and water fresh. Two months passed before I finally attracted cardinals. Birds will eventually find your oasis!

#### How can I help birds?

My singular tray feeder with black oil sunflower seed attracted cardinals, goldfinches, house finches, northern flickers, blue jays, dark-eyed juncos, and (of course) house sparrows last year. I live in town and have the feeder hanging off my deck rail. To help birds even more, plant native flowers and shrubs that provide berries and seeds that Kansas birds have evolved to eat, such as coneflowers and chokecherries. Oak trees also make great habitat and provide acorns, a favorite among blue jays. Evergreens or shrubs with thick foliage are great shelters for songbirds. Well-maintained nest boxes can also provide refuge.

It's not too late to add a bird feeder to your yard to attract some color in the form of feathers. In fact, you are right on time!

Jessica Butters | Twin Creeks District | K-State Extension | 785-877-5755



## PRAIRIE DOC BY DEB JOHNSTON, MD

### The Bones of the Matter

When I was in medical school, I learned that a shocking number of people would die or be admitted to a nursing home after a hip fracture.

Even today, a hip fracture can be a devastating event for an older American. Up to 30% will die within the next year. Many more will lose independence and require admission to assisted living or a nursing home. Estimates vary, but it may approach 50%. As hard as it is to believe, these statistics are improved from my long ago medical school days.

As a doctor in training, the solution seemed obvious. If osteoporosis caused hip fractures, and hip fractures caused premature death and disability, then my mission as a primary care physician would be to prevent osteoporosis. I've been nagging my patients about their calcium and vitamin D intake and their weight bearing exercise ever since.

To be fair, the reality is a bit more nuanced. It's true that osteoporosis is a major factor in hip fractures, but it is often accompanied by other issues: poor nutrition, poor balance, low muscle mass, and more obvious serious health conditions like dementia, heart

disease, kidney disease, and diabetes.

Similarly, preventing osteoporosis isn't as simple as urging everyone to drink enough milk. Generally we can build stronger bones up until about age 30. After that, the goal is to maintain bone mass. Those critical years are often decades before a person starts thinking about their bones, and sometimes well before they start thinking about their health at all!

Other habits also influence how strong your bones are at their best. Smoking and alcohol reduce bone mass. Weight bearing exercise increases it; while being sedentary has the opposite effect. Your body needs vitamin D to make bone, too, and deficiencies are surprisingly common.

Other health conditions, and their treatments, can have significant influences on your bone health. The list is long: eating disorders, premature menopause, inflammatory bowel disease, seizure disorders, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic kidney disease, thyroid disease, cancer.

While preventing osteoporosis starts in childhood, hope is not lost just because you are well into middle age, or older. Talk with your doc-

tor about what you should be doing to keep your bones healthy. Do you need help getting rid of nicotine, or cutting back on alcohol? Are you having trouble getting enough calcium or vitamin D? Are there medications you are taking that could be changed? Is it time to start screening?

While many people think about osteoporosis as a woman's disease, it affects men too, albeit at lower rates. In fact, men may have a higher risk of death after a hip fracture. We all need to be thinking about our bones. It's never too early. Or too late.

Dr. Debra Johnston is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings 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 on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

### Upcoming Partner Training Resources: Conditional Intensity

Scheduled Training Sessions:

Wednesday, February 25 · 9:30 – 10:30am Central Time  
Google Meet joining info: <https://meet.google.com/uua-pgvb-fhb>  
Or dial: ☐(US) +1 727-877-8334 ☐ PIN: ☐591 840 914 ☐#  
More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/uua-pgvb-fhb?pin=4882181209415>

Wednesday, March 4 · 2:00 – 3:00pm Central Time  
Google Meet joining info: <https://meet.google.com/uox-qgmz-ubg>  
Or dial: ☐(US) +1 530-523-0448 ☐ PIN: ☐567 385 985 ☐#  
More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/uox-qgmz-ubg?pin=6179404187251>

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**Help Wanted**  
**Graham County Job Opening**

**Graham County Treasurer's Office is seeking applicants for the Deputy Treasurer & Office Clerk positions**

**Requirements:** High school diploma or GED is required. One to three years of clerical work experience is preferred. Experience in all Microsoft Programs, data entry, computers, printers, copiers, fax machines and a multi-line phone system is preferred. Knowledge of bookkeeping and accounting principles is preferred. Candidates must possess the ability to follow oral and written instructions and must uphold professionalism to the general public when working with them. On-the-job training will be provided.

**Working Conditions/Physical Requirements:**  
 This position is conducted in an office environment with no adverse working conditions. Qualified candidate will primarily work Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. with few exceptions. This position is sedentary in nature and involves sitting the majority of the time. Qualified candidate must be able to lift items weighing up to 20 pounds when needed.

If you would like more information about this position, please contact the Graham County Treasurer's Office at (785) 421-2331, or if interested in applying for this position please pickup application in the Graham County Clerk's office or email resume to treasurer@grahamcountyks.com.

**HELP Wanted**

Guest/page 4 \_\_\_\_\_

nationwide, where many colleges subsidize their athletics operations.

Such a request faces a giant public-relations hurdle until the larger problem is solved. If the public can be certain that it's a level playing field, then the notion of underwriting athletics could become more palatable as an economic development initiative.

Even then, it would have to be carefully and narrowly crafted: Say, for instance, that they established a special taxing district such that only the growth in taxes was captured and funneled toward athletics. Then no government service would be negatively impacted. That could possibly pass muster. Something akin to the Chiefs deal, for shorthand. Or a tax on tickets, or a surcharge on television-rights packages, or... something specifically targeted. Get the Kansas City Polsinelli lawyers on the job.

But nobody's going to want to pump any taxpayer money of any kind into a black hole where K-State and KU are competing against, say, LSU spending \$50 million on players. Where would the request end?

If the public can be certain that there are real enforceable limits, then there could be a reasonable debate. Otherwise it will be swamped by complaints: I don't want my tax money paying some entitled brat who ends up transferring to KU. Those greedy so-and-sos created this mess, and now they want my tax money to bail them out? Hell to the no. Yadda yadda yadda.

Which probably means any such request is going to have to wait a year or so. Because - to get back to the starting point - the big picture issues have to get fixed first. That should have happened months ago, at the very least.

Ned Seaton  
 Manhattan Mercury

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## HANSEN MUSEUM NEWS BY SHARI BUSS

Our current exhibit has the gallery walls beautifully adorned with a wide array of artistic mediums. The 49th Annual High School Art Show features paintings, sculpture, printmaking, pencil and ink drawings, and mixed media pieces. Art education encourages students to explore different mediums not only to meet educational standards, but also to develop and refine their creative skills.

As you meander through the exhibit, you may notice a natural progression in both technique and expression. Instructors often guide younger students more closely, emphasizing foundational technical skills, while older students are given greater freedom to apply and expand upon what they have learned. As you stroll through the gallery, allow yourself a respite from everyday concerns and step into a world shaped by the imagination and talent of these young artists. Logan resident Edith Schick recently brought her sister, Letha Glauum of Manhattan, Kansas, to enjoy the High School Art Show. As it happens, Letha's granddaughter, who lives in Germany, is quite an artist herself. Edith and Letha delighted in snapping photos of the artwork and texting them overseas. What a marvel it is that inspiration found in Logan, Kansas, can be instantly shared with a young artist in Germany. Moments like these beautifully fulfill the purpose of the High School Art Show—to encourage and inspire creativity across generations and even across continents.

There are many exciting opportunities ahead through the Museum's continuing education schedule. If you follow social media, you've likely noticed that so-called "granny hobbies" — sewing, crocheting, knitting, and similar handcrafts — are enjoying a resurgence in popularity. The Museum is pleased to respond to that interest by offering a Crochet for Beginners class on Saturday, February 21st. Participants will learn how to properly hold the hook and yarn, master basic stitches, and read simple crochet patterns. If you have ever looked at a crochet pattern, you know it can seem like a foreign language — and in a way, it is! Space is limited, so don't delay if you would like to try your hand at crocheting.

Next on the schedule is Mixed Media Painting with Sandy Seamone on Saturday, February 28th, and Sunday, March 1st. Sandy will take a western approach during this creative weekend, painting a working cowboy on Saturday and a painted pony on Sunday. An experienced instructor, Sandy

specializes in guiding beginners through the painting process. Her lighthearted and encouraging style makes the class both educational and enjoyable.

On March 7th, the Museum is pleased to welcome Monica Sellens back to teach fabric-wrapped baskets. Just in time for Easter, participants will learn how to transform cotton clothesline rope, fabric of their choosing, and provided supplies into a beautiful, handcrafted basket. Basic sewing skills are required, and participants need to bring their own sewing machine. Register online at [www.hansenmuseum.org](http://www.hansenmuseum.org) under the Classes and Workshops tab or by calling the Museum at 785-689-4846.

The Hansen Museum continues to be a place where creativity, learning, and community come together. Whether you are visiting the High School Art Show, participating in a class, or simply stopping by for a quiet moment of inspiration, there is always something new to discover. We hope to see YOU at the Museum!



Standing before the Norton Community High School display, Edith Schick of Logan, KS, and Letha Glauum of Manhattan, KS, shared snapshots of the student artwork with Letha's granddaughter in Germany — a joyful reminder that inspiration found at the Hansen Museum can travel across continents in seconds.

# Got News?

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

- Birthday Announcements**  
Free with a picture for 100 years or older for residents of Graham County. For 100th birthdays for non-residents with a tie to the area, the article is free. Free announcements are available for Graham County resident 75 and older. Photos can be submitted for \$25.
- Engagement Announcements**  
Free for residents of Graham County or couples with parents in Graham County with the following information: name of prospective bride and groom with residence, their parents and residence, when/where the wedding is planned, couples' schooling and occupations. Free announcement must be submitted to our office before their wedding. A photo may be added for \$25.
- Calendar Entries**  
Any event from Graham County which is free or by free will donation may be listed in the Times calendar. Those events are also listed in the Essential Calendar on the website. Deadline is 5 pm Friday.
- Anniversary Announcements**  
Free with one photo for 50 years and over for Graham County residents or couples with children in Graham County. Free announcements, with no photo, are available 25, 30, 40 and 45 years. Announcements can include couple's name, residence, date and place of marriage, occupations, children/grandchildren, and reception information (if applicable). Additional photos can be submitted for \$25.
- Club Notes**  
Clubs and organizations are welcome to submit items. We publish these for free if the clubs regularly meet within Graham County.
- Business Briefs**  
If a business is located within Graham County, or owned by a resident of Graham County submissions such as new hires, awards, etc. may be submitted for consideration. Note, this does not include sales, services or other items considered advertising.
- Birth Announcements**  
Free for parents and/or grandparents in Graham County with the following information: baby's name, weight, length, place of birth and date, parents name and residence, siblings, grandparents and residences, great grandparents and residences) please specify if they are deceased). A photo may be added for \$25.
- Sports Items**  
We are happy to publish sports items from around the county. Don't forget your college student-athletes! Open to all Graham County residents -- including proud grandpa and grandmas!
- Letters to the Editor**  
The Hill City Times, Graham County is open to views from residents within the county. Letters to the Editor must include complete name, signature, address and phone number. Name and town will only be published in the newspaper. Free letters are limited to approximately 250 words. If a letter is more than 250 words, it is subject to editing and the full versions will be posted online. They may also be published in the paper at the editor's discretion. If the word count exceeds 250 words, the letter can be published as a paid advertisement (subject to editorial approval). Political letters are also considered paid advertisements.
- Academic Items**  
We publish awards and achievements from our students around the county. This can be any level from elementary school through college.
- Wedding Announcements**  
Free for Graham County residents or couples with parents in Graham County with the following information: name of bride and groom, residence, parents and residence, bridal party, where and when the wedding took place, honeymoon location and where the couple resides after wedding. Free announcements must be submitted to our office before their one year anniversary. A photo may be added for \$25.
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The Official City & County Newspaper for Hill City, Graham County, KS

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<p><b>20007 40 HWY, WaKeeney - \$250,000 -</b> 4 beds, 2 baths, beautiful farmstead with barn, great location, close to town <b>NEW PRICE</b></p>	<p><b>UNDER CONTRACT</b> 124 Delaware, Ransom - \$105,000 Newly remodeled 3 bed 1 bath original wood floors</p>	<p>913 Warren, Wakeeney - \$80,000 - 3 bed 1 bath, outdoor bar/kitchen <b>NEW LISTING</b></p>
<p>812 MAIN ST. WAKEENEY - \$182,500 - 4 bed, 2 bath, main floor laundry, great location <b>PRICE ADJUSTMENT</b></p>	<p><b>SOLD</b> 820 N 6th St., Wakeeney - \$335,000 - 5 bed, 3 bath, updated brick home, beautiful landscaping</p>	<p>206 W OGDEN St., Ransom - \$40,000 - 2 bed, 1 bath, large corner lot, detached garage <b>UNDER CONTRACT</b></p>
<p>402 N 8th, Hill City - \$115,000 - 4 bed, 2 bath, enclosed porch, detached 2 car garage <b>UNDER CONTRACT</b></p>	<p>257 N Logan Ufca - \$70,000 - 3 bed, 2 bath, attached garage, 20x30 steel shed</p>	
<p><b>NEW PRICE</b> 224 Kedzie, Wakeeney - \$159,000 4 bed, 2 bath, main floor laundry, large corner lot</p>	<p><b>NEW LISTING</b> 321 N School, Ness City - \$240,000 4 bed, 3 bath, 2 car garage, large corner lot</p>	<p><b>SOLD</b> 317 N 7th WaKeeney - \$189,000 - 4-bedroom, 2-bath home, all appliances stay</p>

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**SEIRER'S CLOTHING**

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## JR High Scholars Bowl



The 7th and 8th grade Scholars Bowl teams both took 3rd at Ellis. Great job, Ringnecks!

**PLEASE SEND ALL LEGAL NOTICES  
TO  
THEHILLCITYTIMES@GMAIL.COM  
BY FRIDAY AT NOON FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK'S  
PUBLICATION.**

### Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times  
on Wednesday, February 18, 2026)

**NOTICE OF FORFEITURE OF OIL AND GAS LEASE  
Pursuant to K.S.A. 55-201, 55-202, and 55-203**

TO: SATCHELL CREEK PETROLEUM, LLC

The undersigned owners of the following-described land situated in Graham County, Kansas subject to the Oil and Gas Lease indicated:

Worcester Oil and Gas Lease

Oil and Gas Lease dated December 10, 2021 from Merlyn Worcester and Josie Worcester, Co-Trustees of the Merlyn and Josie Worcester Living Trust November 12, 2014, as lessors, to Satchell Creek Petroleum, LLC, as lessee, having a primary term of three (3) years, covering the following-described land in Graham County, Kansas:

The Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section 28, Township 7 South, Range 22 West, Graham County, Kansas.

recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, Graham County, Kansas in Book 295 at Pages 995 - 996

Owners: Merlyn Worcester and Josie Worcester, Co-Trustees of the Merlyn and Josie Worcester Living Trust November 12, 2014

do hereby notify you that the terms of said lease have been broken by SATCHELL CREEK PETROLEUM, LLC and the undersigned owners hereby elect to declare said Oil and Gas Lease forfeited and of no further force or effect, and that, unless you do, within twenty (20) days from this date, file an affidavit with the Register of Deeds of Graham County, Kansas setting forth facts showing the lease remains valid and in force, as provided by K.S.A. 55-203, the undersigned owners will file with the said Register of Deeds an affidavit of forfeiture as provided by law. Specifically, the primary term of the lease expired on December 10, 2024, and no well has been drilled, completed, or produced in paying quantities, and no operations have been conducted sufficient to maintain the lease. And the owners of land subject to the above-described Oil and Gas Lease hereby demand that you execute or cause to be executed a proper surrender of said lease and put the same of record in the office of the Graham County, Kansas Register of Deeds within twenty (20) days from this date.

Dated this 18th day of February 2026.

Submitted By:

Robert R. Titus, KS Bar #26766  
Titus Law Firm, LLC  
7304 W. 130th Street, Suite 190  
Overland Park, Kansas 66213  
P: (913) 599-9391  
F: (913) 599-9238  
rob@tituslawkc.com  
Attorney for Owners

### Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times  
on Wednesday, February 4, 2026)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of  
David Chalfant, Deceased Case No. GH-2026-PR-00004

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

THE STATE OF KANSAS, TO ALL PERSONS  
CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Joni Chalfant, spouse and one of the heirs of David Chalfant, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Graham County, Kansas:

South Half (S/2) and Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Section Four (4), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-two (22) West of the 61h P.M., Graham County, Kansas; and  
East Half (E/2) of Section Five (5), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-two (22) West of the 6th P.M., Graham County, Kansas.

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

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the District Court of GRAHAM County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Joni Chalfant  
Petitioner

Prepared by:  
Jill Elliott #21719  
Elliott Law Office, PA  
301 N. Pomeroy Ave.  
P.O. Box 128  
Hill City, Kansas 67642  
(785) 421-2288: Telephone  
jill@jillelliottlaw.com  
Attorney for Petitioner

### Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times  
on Wednesday, February 4, 2026)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of  
SYLVANUS ROME, Deceased Case No. GH-2026-PR-000005

**NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on 29th, day of January 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by James Rome praying that the Last Will and Testament of Sylvanus Rome filed with the Petition be admitted to probate and record; that petitioners, James Rome be appointed as executor, without bond; and that petitioner be granted Letters Testamentary.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 5th day of March, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Hill City, Graham County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

James Rome, Petitioner

ROBERT M. BERLAND #21856  
BERLAND LAW OFFICE, LLC  
P.O. Box 38  
Hill City, KS 67642  
(785) 421-2144  
Attorney for Estate

### Insight/page 4

ten Fellows program as well, including changes in staff, changes in our destination country and changes in timelines because of conflict in the Middle East.

In Israel we experienced the impacts of continuous change. The most obvious being a Tel such as in Tel Aviv. In Hebrew a "Tel" is a small hill resulting from the ruins of one civilization built on top of another built on top of another. Our tour guides would joke that if we saw a mosque, it was generally built on top of a church that was built on top of a synagogue. We saw how the conflict and cooperation between these cultures shaped Israel into what it is today.

One of the first books we studied this year was "Dare to Lead" by Brene Brown, who gives an example of leading through change:

"During a time of difficult change and uncertainty, daring leaders might sit with their teams and say: These changes are coming in hard and fast, and I know there's a lot of anxiety — I'm feeling it too, and it's hard to work through ... I will share everything I can about the changes with you, as soon as I can".

The team at Kansas Farm Bureau dared to lead us through these changes and we as a cohort grew in our own abilities because of their example and our own experiences.

We have learned to listen, to understand, to assess the situation, to pivot to new ideas when needed and to navigate the new dynamics. Many other organizations might have quit or given up at any one of the challenges that arose, but we pressed on and moved forward. This represents to me the strength and resilience of Kansas Farm Bureau as an organization and our commitment to develop leaders equipped to lead through change on local, state, national and global level.

Personally, I am looking forward to implementing all of the lessons I have learned on the farm, being better a father, on local co-op, water and Farm Bureau boards. The one thing they all have in common is that change is inevitable.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.



Vesper Community Center

**FARM SHOW**

**SATURDAY Feb 21st  
10am - 1pm**

Free admission, gimmees, free raffles & prizes

Concession stand open for breakfast & lunch

Come out and support your local vendors !!

785-524-2466 www.vespercc.org

1247 N 120th Rd Lincoln KS 67455

Concessions are sold by volunteers to fundraise solely for community purposes

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

(First published in The Hill City Times Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS  
BLACK TEA OIL HOLDINGS, INC.; PARTNERS PETRO-  
LEUM, LLC; HYDRATECH, LLC, PLAINTIFFS,

VS CASE NO. GH-2026-CV-000002

SATCHELL CREEK PETROLEUM, LLC; RUSSELL PUMP AND OILFIELD SUPPLY, INC.; HURRICANE SERVICES, INC.; HIGH PLAINS MACHINE, LLC; LOG-TECH, LLC; KANSAS ACID, INC.; AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, TRUSTEES, CREDITORS AND ASSIGNS OF ANY DEFENDANTS; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF ANY DEFENDANTS; THE UNKNOWN OFFICERS, SUCCESSOR, TRUSTEES, CREDITORS, SUCCESSORS, AND ASSIGNS OF ANY DEFENDANTS THAT ARE OR WERE PARTNERS OR IN PARTNERSHIP; THE UNKNOWN GUARDIANS, CONSERVATORS AND TRUSTEES OF ANY DEFENDANTS THAT ARE MINORS OR UNDER ANY LEGAL DISABILITY AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, TRUSTEES, CREDITORS AND ASSIGNS OF ANY PERSON ALLEGED TO BE DECEASED, DEFENDANTS.

**NOTICE OF SUIT  
(PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 60-307)**

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

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION TO FORECLOSE LIENS HAS BEEN FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY KANSAS BY BLACK TEA OIL HOLDINGS, INC., PARTNERS PETROLEUM, LLC AND HYDRATECH, LLC, PLAINTIFFS, PRAYING FOR FORECLOSURE OF THE FOLLOWING LIENS FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS:

- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000002
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000003
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000004
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000005
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000006
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000007
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000008
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000009
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000010
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000011
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000012
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000013
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000014
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000015
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000016
- CASE NO. GH-2025-SL-000017

YOU ARE HEREBY REQUIRED TO PLEAD TO THE PETITION FOR FORECLOSURE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 2, 2026 IN SAID COURT, AT THE GRAHAM COUNTY DISTRICT COURTHOUSE, HILL CITY, KANSAS. IF YOU FAIL TO PLEAD, JUDGMENT AND DECREE WILL BE ENTERED IN DUE COURSE UPON THE PETITION.

/S/ DONALD F. HOFFMAN, #09502  
DREILING, BIEKER & HOFFMAN, LLC  
111 W 13TH STREET -PO BOX 579  
HAYS, KS 67601  
T: 785-625-3537  
F: 785-628-8129  
E: DON@DBHLAWHAYS.COM  
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

## Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, February 11, 2026)  
**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS Board of Commissioners**

Board of Commissioners  
of Graham County, Kansas,  
v.  
A & R Investments, LLC, et al.,  
Plaintiffs,  
Case # GH-2025-CV-01  
Defendants.

### NOTICE OF SUIT

- STATE OF KANSAS TO:
- Tract # 2: ACR Land Trust
  - Tract # 3: Gregory Alexander
  - Tract # 4: Jon J. Bradshaw, Sandra Bradshaw
  - Tract # 5: Jon J. Bradshaw, Sandra Bradshaw, Citizens State Bank
  - Tract # 6: Romell Bullock
  - Tract # 7: Doug David, Stephanie Ann David, Guaranty State Bank & Trust Co
  - Tract # 8: F. Richard Gansel, June M. Gansel
  - Tract # 19: Jason Kenneth Hall
  - Tract # 20: Joshua David Helfrich
  - Tract # 21: Jesse O Jones,
  - Tract # 24: Erica C. Knoll
  - Tract # 25: Lawrence Adams, Norma Jean Adams aka Norma Jean Shower, John Showers, Kenney Showers, Steven Showers, Douglas Showers, Cathy Logan, Jennifer L. Showers, Justin L. Showers; Jessica E. Showers, Jordyn P. Showers, Sherry E. Showers, Michelle E. Wiltfong, Devra C. Dobbins, James H. Showers
  - Tract # 26: Thomas R. Miller, Sharon Miller, Blair I. Weilnau
  - Tract # 27: Charles Edward Morris
  - Tract # 28: Lynn Paul Prochazka
  - Tract # 30: Glenda Browning Peltier
  - Tract # 31: Reichert Living Trust utd 4-22-16, Reichert Living Trust utd 4-22-16
  - Tract # 32: Roberta Rena Robinson
  - Tract # 33: Rock Creek Farms, Inc., American Mortgage Company
  - Tract # 39 & 40: Leroy H. Van Duvall Revocable Trust utd 10-25-11
  - Tract # 43 & 44: Mary E. Pryor, Roberts Charles Webb Revocable Living Trust utd 9-3-13
  - Tract # 45: Twillia O. Wilson
  - Tract # 46: Alva D. Winters II

if the above defendants are living, and if dead, then their unknown spouses, heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns; and

The unknown executors, guardians and trustees of such of the above named defendants who are minors or are in anywise under legal disability; and

The unknown executors, administrators, trustees, creditors, successors of such defendants as are or were partners or in partnership; and

The unknown executors, administrators, trustees, creditors, successors, receivers and assigns of any of the above named defendants who are or were existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; and

The unknown spouses of the defendants, and all other persons concerned,

Defendants.

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the District Court of Graham County, Kansas, by the Board of Commissioners of Graham County, Kansas, praying for judicial foreclosure and sale of real property upon which there is unpaid delinquent real estate taxes, and you are hereby required to plead the said petition on or before April 2, 2026, in said Court in Hill City, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition. The following are descriptions of all properties which shall be subject to foreclosure and sale and the names of such of you as are the owner, or a party having some interest therein:

Tract # 2: #3781 (Parcel 1) and 3782 (Parcel 2) -

Parcel 1: A portion of Block Twenty-six (26), Town of Morland, County of Graham, State of Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Considering the North line of said Block 26 to bear an assumed bearing of North 90°00'00" West with all bearings contained herein relative thereto. Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Block 26, thence along the West line of said Block 26, South 00°04'04" West 68.60 feet; thence along an exterior building wall to the East, North 89°34'02" East 169.62 feet to a point on an interior building wall; thence along interior building walls the following 6 courses, South 00°36'41" West 25.53 feet; thence South 89°23'19" East 7.28 feet; thence South 00°36'41" West 8.91 feet; thence South 89°23'19" East 5.89 feet; thence South 00°36'41" West 14.03 feet; thence South 89°23'19" East 15.51 feet to a point on an exterior building wall; thence along said wall, South 00°16'50" East 14.12 feet; thence North 89°38'46" East 45.28 feet to the Southwesterly corner of Tract 3 shown on Survey recorded in Book 254, Page 575, March 9th 2012; thence along the Westerly line of said Tract the following 3 courses, North 00°21'14" West 32.50 feet; thence South 89°38'46" West 37.61 feet; thence North 00°20'28" West 97.66 feet to the North line of said Block 26; thence along said North line, North 90°00'00" West 204.65 feet to the point of beginning.

SUBJECT TO AN ACCESS EASEMENT.

Parcel 2: A Portion of Block Twenty-six (26), Town of Morland, County of Graham, State of Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Considering the North line of said Block 26 to bear an assumed bearing of North 90°00'00" West with all bearings contained herein relative thereto. Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Block 26, thence along the West line of said Block 26, South 00°04'04" West 68.60 feet; thence North 89°34'02" East 120.98 feet to the point of beginning; thence along an exterior building wall to the East, North 89°34'02" East 48.64 feet to a point on an interior building wall; thence along interior building walls the following 6 courses, South 00°36'41" West 25.53 feet; thence South 89°23'19" East 7.28 feet; thence South 00°36'41" West 8.91 feet; thence South 89°23'19" East 5.89 feet; thence South 00°36'41" West 14.03 feet; thence South 89°23'19" East 15.51 feet to a point on an exterior building wall; thence along said wall, South 00°16'50" East 14.12 feet; thence North 89°38'46" East 27.16 feet to the Northwest corner of Tract 2 shown on Survey recorded in Book 254, Page 575, March 9th, 2012; thence along the West lines of Tracts 1 & 2 shown on said Survey, South 00°02'56" East 189.94 feet to the South line of said Block 26; thence along said South line, South 89°57'04" West 76.14 feet to the Southeast corner of Tract 4 shown on said Survey; thence North 00°02'56" West 44.57 feet to the Northeast corner of said Tract 4; thence along the North line of said Tract 4, North 89°55'56" West 26.83 feet; thence North 00°19'28" West 207.76 feet to the point of beginning.

TOGETHER WITH AN ACCESS EASEMENT.

ACCESS EASEMENT DESCRIPTION- An easement for the purpose of ingress and egress over and across a portion of Block 26, Town of Morland, County of Graham, State of Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Considering the North line of said Block 26 to bear an assumed bearing of North 90°00'00" West with all bearings contained herein relative thereto. Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Block 26; thence along the North line of said Block 26, North 90°00'00" East 146.63 feet to the Westerly edge of an existing concrete sidewalk; said point being also the point of beginning; thence more or less along said Westerly edge, South 00°01'21" East 67.49 feet to the North line of Tract 2 described above; thence along said

North line, North 89°34'02" East 22.88 feet; thence North 00°36'41" East 15.56 feet; thence South 89°40'15" West 14.75 feet to the Easterly edge of said concrete sidewalk; thence more or less along said Easterly edge, North 00°01'21" West 51.84 feet to the North line of said Block 26; thence along said North line, North 90°00'00" West 8.30 feet to the point of beginning.

Tract # 3: #R1127 - SW/4 of 21-7-21, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 4: #R3164 - The Surface rights only in and to a tract of land beginning at a point 466.7 feet West of the Northeast corner (NE/c) of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW/4NE/4) of Section Fourteen (14), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-three (23) West of the 6th PM, Graham County, Kansas, thence West 51 feet, thence South 466.7 feet, thence East 51 feet, thence North 466.7 feet to the point of beginning.

The above tract is also described in the certificate appearing in the abstract as Tract No. 8-A, 1974 Addition, Ordinance No. 579 of the City of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas, and The tract is also described as Tract No. 3 of Ordinance No. 579 of the City of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 5: #R3189 - Lots 21 and 23, Block 6, McGill's Addition to the City of Hill City, Graham County Kansas and a strip of real estate approximately 10 feet wide adjoining the west side of said lot 23, said strip being vacated pursuant to Hill City ordinance 352.

Tract # 6: #R2310 - Lots 21 and 23, Block 16, original town, now City of Hill City, Graham County Kansas.

Tract # 7: #R471 - A portion of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) and of the South Half (S/2) of Section Thirty-one (31), Township Six (6) South, Range Twenty-four (24) West of the 6th PM, County of Graham, State of Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Section 31 and considering the East line of said Section 31 to bear an assumed bearing of North 00°00'00" East with all bearings contained herein relative thereto; thence along said East line, North 00°00'00" East 2227.22 feet; thence South 89°51'43" West 469.79 feet; thence North 86°33'40" West 403.11 feet; thence North 43°02'28" West 441.08 feet; thence North 34°52'18" West 267.48 feet; thence North 04°25'59" West 248.50 feet; thence North 17°45'00" West 130.07 feet; thence North 40°27'08" West 243.57 feet; thence North 39°31'22" West 268.44 feet; thence North 01°19'54" East 401.63 feet; thence North 06°35'30" West 1193.98 feet; thence North 89°46'05" East 105.19 feet; thence North 00°13'55" West 133.26 feet to the North line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 31; thence along said North line, South 89°46'05" West 900.72 feet to the Northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 31; thence along the West line of said Northeast Quarter, South 00°02'16" East 2116.24 feet; thence North 88°57'45" East 919.92 feet; thence South 00°12'23" East 324.71 feet; thence South 51°53'29" West 196.47 feet; thence South 06°19'46" East 316.23 feet; thence South 22°19'24" East 134.70 feet; thence South 02°17'56" East 303.79 feet; thence South 54°17'11" West 207.24 feet; thence South 81°30'43" West 135.57 feet; thence South 11°13'29" West 89.77 feet; thence South 16°29'33" West 393.04 feet; thence South 37°43'40" West 57.05 feet; thence South 58°38'53" West 504.99 feet; thence along a curve to the Right with a Radius of 2581.20 feet, a Chord Bearing of South 32°13'46" West and a Chord of 438.39 feet; thence South 17°38'40" West 570.61 feet to the South line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 31; thence along said South line, North 89°41'40" East 685.44 feet to the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 31; thence along the South line of said Southeast Quarter, North 89°41'40" East 2634.23 feet to the point of beginning.

Tract # 8: R1836 - Beginning at a point 330 ft west of the northeast corner of the W/2 NW/4 of 18-8-22, Graham County Kansas, thence 165 feet west along the north line of said section 18, thence 528 ft south on a line parallel to the east line of the W/2 NW/4 thence 165 feet east, thence 528 feet north to the point of beginning.

Tract # 19: #R3821 - Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 31 in the original town of Fremont, now called the City of Morland, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 20: #R-2216 - East 52 feet of Lots 2, 4 and 6, Block 17 in Garnett's Addition to the City of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 21: #R4212 - E/2 12-9-23, Graham County Kansas

Tract # 24: #R3817 - E/2 of lot 17 and all of lots 18, 19 and 20, Block 30, Original town of Fremont now called the City of Morland, Graham County Kansas.

Tract # 25: #R1501 - W/2 of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 33, original town, now City of Bogue, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 26: #R1572 - W 82 feet of Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 24 in the City of Bogue, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 27: #R302311 - A leasehold improvement - # 9 hangar at Hill City Airport, Graham County, Kansas

Tract # 28: #R2597 - Lots 1, 3 and 5, Block 2, Sandford's Addition to the City of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 30: #R2955 - Lots 8, 10 and 12, Block 4, Sanford's and Crawford's Addition to the City of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 31: #R2148 - Lot 16, Hillcrest Addition to the City of Hill City, Graham County Kansas.

Tract # 32: #R304788 - Lot 18, Block 9 in the town of Nicodemus, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 33: #R839 - S/2 and E/2 NE/4 28-7-24, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 39: #R1148 - W/2 NW/4 23-7-21 Graham County, Kansas less a tract beginning at the southwest corner of the W/2 NW/4 thence east 336 feet, thence north 1000 feet thence west 336 feet, thence south 1000 feet to the point of beginning.

Tract # 40: #R1209 - NW/4 SW/4 1-8-21, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 43: #R1065 - NW/4 29-7-22, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 44: #R1067 - E/2 NE/4 and NW/4 NE/4 and NE/4 NW/4 30-7-22, Graham County, Kansas.

Tract # 45: #R1272 - Lots 23 and 24, Block 12, in the town of Nicodemus, Graham County Kansas.

Tract # 46: #R2950 - Lots 1, 3, and 5 and the east five feet of Lot 7, Block 4, Sanford's and Crawford's Addition to the City of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS.

APPROVED:  
Michael Abbott  
Michael Abbott  
Graham County Attorney

## Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times  
on Wednesday, February 4, 2026)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of  
David Chalfant, Deceased Case No. GH-2026-PR-00004

### ORDER FOR HEARING AND FOR NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**This Order is effective as of the date and time shown  
on the electronic file stamp.**

NOW, the Court finds that the Petition for Determination of Descent filed herein by Jill Elliott, should be heard on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in this court and that notice of the time and place of hearing be given pursuant to K.S.A. 59-2209; and notice to creditors shall be given pursuant to K.S.A. 59-709 and 59-2236.

All instruments required by K.S.A. 59-2209 to be included with the Notice shall be served on all interested parties, and the Affidavit of Service shall so reflect, provided however, the Petitioner shall be excused from physically attaching to the Affidavit of Service copies of all instruments other than the Notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.  
SUBMITTED BY:



Jill Elliott #21719  
Elliott Law Office, PA  
301 N. Pomeroy Ave.  
P.O. Box 128  
Hill City, Kansas 67642  
(785) 421-2288: Telephone  
jill@jillelliottlaw.com  
Attorney for Petitioner

## Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times  
on Wednesday, February 4, 2026)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of  
John Cameron Swayze, Jr., Deceased  
Case No. GH-2026-PR-000006

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS, TO ALL PERSONS  
CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Clare Madeline Swayze, wife and one of the heirs of John Cameron Swayze, Jr., deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Graham County, Kansas:

The Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Ten (10), Township Nine (9) South, Range Twenty-Two (22) West of the 6th P.M., Graham County, Kansas

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

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the District Court of Graham County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Clare Madeline Swayze,  
Petitioner

Prepared by:  
Jill Elliott #21719  
Elliott Law Office, PA  
301 N. Pomeroy Ave.  
P.O. Box 128  
Hill City, Kansas 67642  
(785) 421-2288: Telephone  
jill@jillelliottlaw.com  
Attorney for Petitioner

## Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times  
on Wednesday, February 4, 2026)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of  
John Cameron Swayze, Jr., Deceased  
Case No. GH-2026-PR-000006

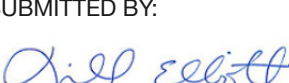
### ORDER FOR HEARING AND FOR NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**This Order is effective as of the date and time shown  
on the electronic file stamp.**

NOW, the Court finds that the Petition for Determination of Descent filed herein by Jill Elliott, should be heard on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in this court and that notice of the time and place of hearing be given pursuant to K.S.A. 59-2209; and notice to creditors shall be given pursuant to K.S.A. 59-709 and 59-2236.

All instruments required by K.S.A. 59-2209 to be included with the Notice shall be served on all interested parties, and the Affidavit of Service shall so reflect, provided however, the Petitioner shall be excused from physically attaching to the Affidavit of Service copies of all instruments other than the Notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.  
SUBMITTED BY:

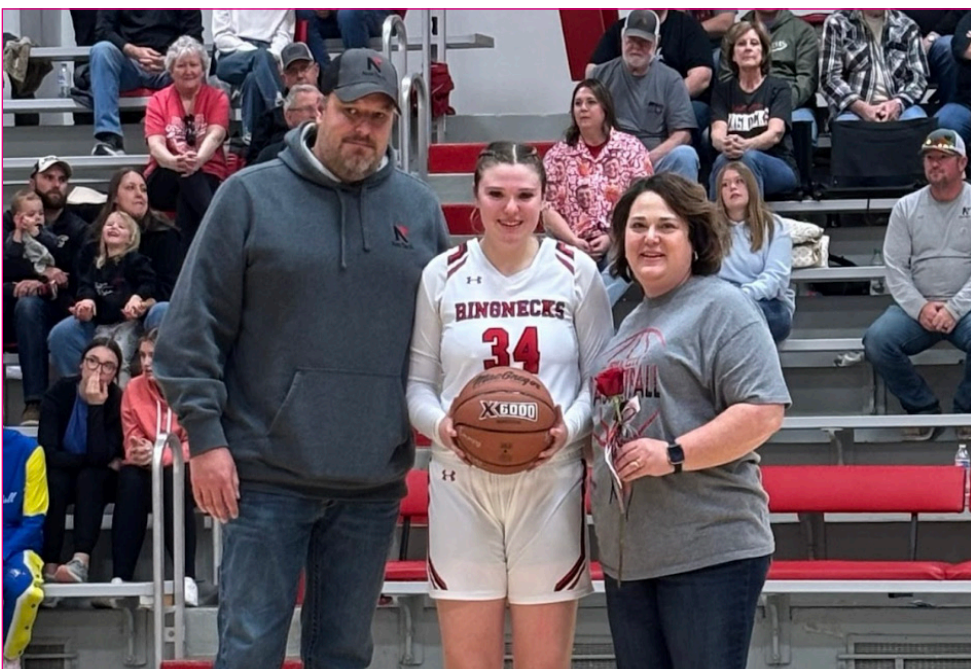


Jill Elliott #21719  
Elliott Law Office, PA  
301 N. Pomeroy Ave.  
P.O. Box 128  
Hill City, Kansas 67642  
(785) 421-2288: Telephone  
jill@jillelliottlaw.com  
Attorney for Petitioner

## Senior Night



Jalynn Flax  
Parents- Toni and Jason Flax



Kamryn Mauck  
Parents: Brandon and Jolyn Mauck  
Kamryn was also presented with a ball signed by her coaches & teammates by her brother Kason!



Rylie Minium  
Her parents: Scott and Leanne Minium  
Rylie was also presented with a ball signed by her coaches & teammates by her "little" brother Rance!



Vincent Zohner  
Parents: Courtney and Justin Zohner

### Smoky Hills PBS Broadcasts State Wrestling

BUNKER HILL, KS – The tradition continues as Smoky Hills PBS will provide live coverage of the 2026 Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championships. The event is scheduled for February 27 to February 28, 2026, at Gross Memorial Coliseum on the campus of Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas.

Smoky Hills PBS will once again showcase both boys' and girls' competitions, continuing a long-standing commitment to local sports and its tradition of bringing LIVE coverage of high school sports to viewers across central and western Kansas.

"Our production crew and our many volunteers take great pride in delivering live, reliable coverage of this championship every year," said Les Kinderknecht, Senior Producer/Director at Smoky Hills PBS. "Covering the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championships is about celebrating the athletes, the schools, and the communities that support them."

Action will begin at 9 AM Friday, February 27th, and continue at 9 AM Saturday, February 28th. A rebroadcast of the Championship Finals will air on Sunday, March 1st at noon. For more information on broadcast times and additional coverage details, please visit our website at SmokyHillsPBS.org or download the free Smoky Hills PBS mobile app for Android and iPhone users.

Local sports coverage like this is made possible by VIEWERS LIKE YOU, and many local businesses who believe in the mission of Smoky Hills PBS.



## Dawson place warms up for the super bowl

We wore red for heart health ... warmed up for the Super Bowl and then tested our heart health with game-day snacks. It's called balance. That's how we do it at Dawson Place

### Local Working Group Meeting Scheduled for March 5 in Alton

The Hill City Management Unit, together with the Osborne, Rooks, and Graham County Conservation Districts, will host a Local Working Group (LWG) meeting on **Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at **The Front Porch, 602 Mill Street, Alton, Kansas.**

The meeting's purpose is to gather input and develop recommendations for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist regarding natural resource concerns and priorities identified at the local level.

"LWGs are important because they provide recommendations on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation activities and programs. It is critical that the 'boots on the ground' have a voice in the process," said **Dan Meyerhoff**, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

Meyerhoff noted that LWG membership should reflect the diversity of agricultural interests and natural resource issues within the community. Participants may include agricultural producers representing local crop, livestock, and poultry operations; owners of nonindustrial private forest land; representatives from agricultural and environmental organizations; and governmental agencies involved in conservation. LWGs also consider the concerns of historically underserved groups, including women, persons with disabilities, socially disadvantaged individuals, and limited-resource producers.

Community members are encouraged to attend. To RSVP or request additional information—contact the Osborne County Conservation District or NRCS staff at **785-346-2128, Extension 3.**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



## TUBBS & SONS FORD SALES, INC.

**810 South Range Ave Colby, KS**  
**1-800-369-3673**  
**785-460-6746**



**2021 Ford Edge SEL AWD**, Lithium Gray w/ Black Leather, 2.0 Eco Boost, SEL, Cold Weather Package, Heated Seats, Carplay, 98K Miles #02123 **\$16,850**



**2019 JEEP Wrangler Rubicon**, Sting Gray w/Black Cloth, 2.0L 4cyl Turbo, Hardtop Headliner, Remote Keyless Entry, Remote Start, Navigation, 44K Miles #02491 **\$37,850**



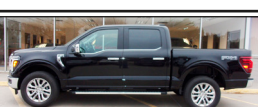
**2025 Chevrolet Silverado ZR2**, White w/Black Leather, 6.2L V8, Heated/Cooled Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Moonroof, Dual Power Seats, 2K Miles #03090 **\$68,850**



**2015 Ford Escape Titanium AWD**, White Platinum w/ Medium Stone Leather, 2.0L Eco Boost, Tech Package, Blind Spot Detection, Active Park Assist, 98K Miles #03913 **Fresh Arrival**



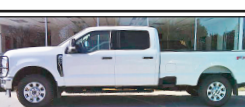
**2024 Ford Mustang 2 Door Hardtop GT**, Vapor Blue w/ Black Onyx Leather, 5.0L Ti-VCT V8 480 HP, Premium Ford Co-Pilot 360 Assist, Built In Navigation, 3K Miles #05225 **\$52,850**



**2025 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat**, Agate Black Metallic w/ Slate Leather, 3.5L Eco Boost, Twin Panel Moonroof, Tow/Haul Package, 178 Miles #05530 **\$63,850**



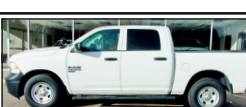
**2022 Ford Escape SE AWD**, White w/ Sandstone Cloth, 1.5L Eco Boost, Mini Spare, 17" Aluminum Wheels, Power Windows, Power Locks, 40K Miles #09002 **\$18,850**



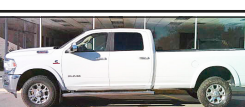
**2024 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4WD**, White w/ Slate Cloth, 7.3L V-8, 176" Wheel Base, Trailer Brake Controller, Heated Trailer Tow Mirrors, 24K Miles #16343 **\$53,850**



**2017 Ford F550 S/C Chassis XL 4X4**, Oxford White w/Gray Cloth, 6.7L Diesel, Power Equipment Group, Heated Trailer Tow Mirrors, Trailer Brake Controller, 158K Miles #21437 **\$25,000**



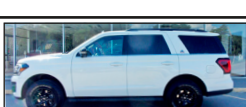
**2021 Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT, 4X4**, White w/ Gray Cloth, V-6, Police Package, One Owner, New Tires, AM/FM Radio, Power Windows, Power Locks, 115K Miles #26074 **\$18,850**



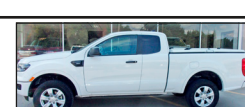
**2020 Dodge Ram 3500 Crewcab Laramie H.D.**, White w/ Black Leather, 6.7L Cummins, Memory Seats, Heated/Cooled Seats, 137K Miles #29348 **Fresh Arrival**



**2024 Bronco 4 Door Outer Banks**, White w/ Roast/Black Leather, 2.3L Eco Boost, Luxury Package, 360 Degree Camera, Adaptive Cruise, 8K Miles #35306 **\$46,850**



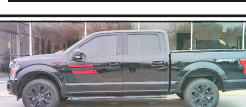
**2022 Ford Expedition Timberline 4dr 4X4**, Star White Tri-Coat w/ Deep Cypress Leather, 3.5L Eco Boost, Power Liftgate, Roof Rack, 73K Miles #36384 **\$46,850**



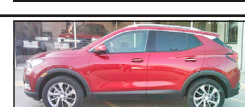
**2022 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT 4WD**, White w/ Ebony Cloth, 2.3L Eco Boost, Rearview Camera, Remote Keyless Entry, Tire Pressure Monitor, Trailer Tow, Bedliner, 17K Miles #38043 **\$30,850**



**2022 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT**, White w/ Ebony Cloth, 2.3L Eco Boost, Trailer Tow, Bedliner, 17" Silver Painted Aluminum Wheels, 17K Miles #39693 **\$29,850**



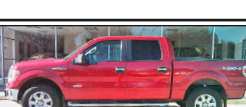
**2020 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X4 Special Edition**, Black w/ Black Cloth, 2.7L Eco Boost, Blind Spot, Moonroof, Navigation, Remote Start, Tailgate Step, XLT Sport, Trailer Hitch, 84K Miles #40764 **\$28,850**



**2021 Buick Encore AWD GX**, Red w/ Black Leather, 1.3L, Sunroof, Heads Up Display, Memory Heated Seats, Aluminum Wheels, Satellite Radio, Onstar, 108K Miles #46478 **\$13,850**



**2013 Dodge Ram 1500 ST 4X4**, White w/Gray Cloth, 5.7L V8, Police Package, Power Windows & Locks, AM/FM Radio, A/C & Heat, Local One Owner, 143K Miles #53182 **\$10,850**



**2011 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4WD**, Red w/ Gray Cloth, 3.5L Eco Boost, 3.55 Ltr Slip, Trailer Tow Package, Keyless Entry Pad, XLT Chrome Package, Sprayed In Bedliner, 177K Miles #65170 **\$11,850**



**2019 Ford Expedition Platinum**, White Platinum w/Ceramic Leather, 3.5L EcoBoost, Panoramic Roof, Power Running Boards, 103K Miles #65615 **\$32,850**

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## Commission/page 3

be visiting Dawson Place on February 13, 2026, to decorate cookies with the elders. She added that Dawson Place would also be hosting a Valentine's Day dance, during which a King and Queen would be crowned. Brandy reported that Dawson Place is currently seeking to fill one full-time kitchen position, working 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and that there is an ongoing need for night-shift CNAs. She also reported that she would begin teaching CNA clinicals for students through FHSU soon. Brandy further reported that Dawson Place participates in the LEAP Program, a workforce development initiative, noting that 13 employees are graduating from the program, with another group having recently started.

Brianna Edwards/Bobbie Jo (Osborne County Treasurer)

Commissioner Irby made a motion to amend the agenda to allow Brianna Edwards, Graham County Deputy Treasurer, and Bobbie Jo, Graham County Treasurer (Osborne County) to present at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. Motion car-

ried, 3-0. Commissioner Irby asked Bobbie Jo to clarify what she was recommending for the Treasurer's Office at this time. Bobbie Jo stated that she believed it would be best for Graham County to conduct an overall audit to provide Brianna Edwards with a clean slate, noting that Brianna should not be held responsible for issues that occurred prior to her tenure. She emphasized the importance of allowing Brianna the opportunity to begin with a fresh start. Commissioner Nelson asked whether Bobbie Jo was recommending the use of an auditor other than the County's current independent auditor. Bobbie Jo confirmed that she would recommend using an auditor outside of Mapes & Miller. She further stated that she felt certain issues had gone unaddressed for too long and expressed the view that it is difficult to move forward while using the same processes and personnel and expecting different results. Bobbie Jo reported that the quarterly statements that had not been completed for several years were a significant concern, noting

that those statements reconcile County funds with bank balances. Commissioner Irby agreed that he would reach out to other firms to obtain pricing for an independent audit. Bobbie Jo further reported that she would be working with Brianna Edwards on how to better utilize the system to support daily operations. She explained that in her office they close each day at 4:00 p.m. and remain until all accounts are balanced before leaving.

The County Attorney added that this matter would likely need to be set out for bids. Brianna Edwards stated that, in her opinion, the sooner the process begins, the better. County Clerk Robinson administered the Oath of Office to Brianna Edwards for the Graham County Treasurer's Office. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to appoint Brianna Edwards as Graham County Treasurer. Commissioner Crouch seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-0. County Clerk Robinson reported that both the Treasurer's Office and the Clerk's Office would be without deputy staff as of next week and that the County would need to be-

gin advertising the vacant positions immediately.

Commissioner Irby informed Brianna Edwards that Nancy Law would be someone she could reach out to regarding interim assistance.

Commissioner Nelson asked Bobbie Jo about compensation. Bobbie Jo explained that she does not set her own rate and leaves that determination to the Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners agreed to discuss compensation at a later date.

Bobbie Jo also suggested that the Commissioners consider adopting a resolution establishing a minimum refund threshold, recommending that refunds under \$5.00 not be issued. The Commissioners agreed to review this matter further.

Graham County Community Member- Linda Whiteman

Community Member Linda Whiteman reported that she had previously spoken with the Commissioners and stated that she was requesting assistance. She asked the Board to consider reviewing space planning for a building, including how the space is currently being utilized

and whether it is adequately meeting the needs of the community.

Linda further stated that, as a senior, she has observed that many communities have a senior center, and that Graham County currently does not. She noted that senior meals are not being served on-site and are instead pickup only. Community member Linda Whiteman reported that she felt it would be valuable to the community to have someone come in to teach classes such as chair yoga. Commissioner Irby noted that, during the interim while activities are not being held at the Graham County Community Center, the Wellness Center located in the basement of the hospital could be utilized. Commissioner Irby also stated that the facility has elevator access to accommodate easier entry. Commissioner Nelson stated that the Board would look into what options could be offered. Commissioner Irby obtained Linda Whiteman's phone number and indicated that the Commissioners would follow up with her later once details were sorted out.

New Business

Clerk Robinson presented three abatement orders for review totaling \$106,354 in valuation and \$4,421.92 in tax dollars and requested a motion. Clerk Robinson, Commissioner Irby, and Commissioner Nelson explained the abatement process to Commissioner Crouch. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the three abatement orders as presented, Commissioner Irby seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0. Clerk Robinson presented Resolution 2026-05, the annual Graham County Highway Department employee wage scale, and requested a motion. Commissioner Crouch made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-05, Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Irby reported that Mickie Helberg and Dan Reese currently serve on the Regional EMS Council and would like to continue for the next cycle. Commissioner Crouch made a motion to retain Mickie Helberg and Dan Reese as Regional EMS Council members, Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Crouch asked the Board what steps should be taken to plan for Wayne's replacement if he retires in June 2026, stating that preparations should begin soon. Commissioner Nelson reported that Wayne has only discussed retirement verbally and has not submitted anything in writing. The Commis-

sioners requested that the Clerk obtain an official written retirement date so the Board may move forward accordingly. Clerk Robinson presented the DSNWK Annual Agreement for Services for signatures. Commissioner Irby made a motion to approve the DSNWK Agreement for Services, Commissioner Crouch seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners reviewed and signed accounts payable vouchers and checks. The Clerk presented the abstract from January 13, 2026, Commissioner meeting for signature by the Chair, and Commissioner Nelson signed the abstract. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes from January 20, 2026. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. County Clerk Robinson informed the Commissioners that the beer license application process has changed. Applicants are now required to begin the process by filing their paperwork with the State. Robinson reported that, according to the checklist provided by the State to the Clerk's Office, notification to the Township is no longer required. Robinson requested guidance from the Commissioners on whether this notification should continue. The Commissioners instructed the Clerk to follow the checklist provided by the State. County Clerk Robinson informed the Commissioners that the Wi-Fi from the Court's server does not reach the Magistrate Judge's office and that the connection will need to be hard-wired. Robinson asked whether the cost should be paid from County General or District Court funds. Commissioner Nelson stated that he believed the expense should be paid from County General, as it is a County-owned building. The Commissioners agreed that the expense would be paid by County General funds. Commissioner Crouch asked the Board about current revenue streams for Graham County. The Clerk requested that Graham County Appraiser Rachelle Standley join the meeting to address questions raised by Commissioner Crouch. Rachelle Standley entered the meeting and explained how oil tax revenues are calculated, as well as discussed, several legislative bills currently being considered by the Legislature. With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Irby moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crouch seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### Two Day February Consignment Auction

**Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am**  
**At lot East of Brush, CO at the Junction of Highways 34 & 71**  
**Live On-Site Plus Pre-Auction & Live On-Line, Phone & Absentee Bidding on All Items Both Days.**  
**Visit [AMAAuctions.com](http://AMAAuctions.com) for the complete detailed Listing.**

**Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am**  
**New & Used 3pt & Small Equip, Skid Steer Attachments, Farm & Construction Attachments sell at 9:00am**-There are several hundred pieces in this category including a large variety & quantity of new & used skid steer attachments & much more • **Livestock Equip, CO Brand, Hay & Feed, Livestock Shelters, Fencing Material, Metal Siding, Pipe & Structural Steel, New & Used Lumber & More Sells After 3pt Equip**-2+ Rows of items selling in this category. Both New & Used Items. There is a great selection of new livestock equip plus a good variety alfalfa & grass hay. The CO Livestock Brand is "Lazy K Strung Connected Slash!"  
**•Haying, Harvest, Support, Tillage, Planting, Application & Feeding Equip Along with Larger Pieces of Construction Support Equip Sells After Livestock Equip**

**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am**  
**Tractors, Motor Grader, Forklifts, Mini Excavators, Skid Steers & more sell after ATV's**-Everything from antique & collectible tractors to late model farm tractors, ind. equip plus large variety new mini skid steers & mini ex's • **Trucks & Trailers sell after Tractors**-Semi & farm trucks, manure, dump & tire trucks, bumper pull, gooseneck & semi trailers, livestock trailers & more • **Vehicles sell after Trailers**-PU's, Cars, SUV's & Vans • **Irrigation Equip sells at 9:00am** • **GPS Equip Truck & Tractor Parts, Attachments & Tires sell after Irrigation**-Quick hitches, tractor weights, fenders & other parts, truck accessories & toolboxes, tractor, truck & implement tires & much more • **Commercial Shop Equip & Misc sell after tractor parts**-Wide variety commercial shop equip, new & used shop benches & cabinets, wrought iron fencing & decorative gates, portable restrooms & much more • **Fuel Tanks & Trailers, Propane Tanks, Product Tanks, Truck & Pickup Beds sell after Misc**-Horizontal fuel tanks, OH tanks, transfer tanks, new fuel trailers. Variety product tanks, propane tanks, pickup & truck flatbeds, utility beds & more • **Storage Containers & Buildings, Garage & Car Port Kits sell after Pickup Beds**-Shipping & storage containers, canvas shelters, new garage & car port kits, garden sheds & more • **4 Wheelers, Side x Sides, Snow Mobile, Golf Carts, Mower & More sell after buildings**

**Note**-The February sale is shaping up nicely with a wide variety of good new & used items. Starting here in February and through the spring we will start to see a lot of good farmer owned pieces coming in, many of which will be consigned after the advertising deadline. Pre-auction & Live Online bidding available on all items. Please utilize the website to view detailed listings and info about items and check back often for additions. Don't miss a good February sale with something for everyone. Plan to Attend.




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