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The Official Newspaper for Lincoln County Kansas

# LINCOLN SENTINEL-REPUBLICAN

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## LCEDF announces Post Rock Plaza



**A concept rendering shows the proposed vision for the downtown Lincoln pocket park planned at 132 W. Lincoln Avenue. The Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation is leading the project to transform the former It'll Do Lounge site into a multi-use community gathering space. (Courtesy Photo)**

As stated in a recent press release, the Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation (LCEDF) spearheads a community initiative to convert a vacant lot in downtown Lincoln into a pocket park. The goal is to turn the unused space located at 132 W Lincoln Avenue into a gathering space for residents and visitors.

Years ago, this was the location of the "It'll Do Lounge," a local tavern. The property fell into disrepair and became the property of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. In 2023, the building was razed for public health and safety reasons. After various discussions about improving the property stalled, the County

voted in August to transfer ownership to the LCEDF to lead the redevelopment effort.

In September 2025, the LCEDF invited the community to share their ideas for the property during several public input sessions. LCEDF provided basic design guidelines for the park to keep the scale of improvements manageable, and participants were asked to put their ideas on paper to assist in the process of narrowing down from big ideas to workable proposals.

The common theme amongst those who participated in the input process was to create a multi-use gathering space that could be kid friendly when need-

ed, a source of entertainment when needed, and a place to simply enjoy the scenery, visit with a friend, or stop and rest awhile, and place where visitors feel welcome and can find something to help them along their journey.

The LCEDF then set up a steering committee, made up of representatives from the city, Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Center Improvement Committee, downtown businesses and the LCEDF, to evaluate the ideas, make key decisions, and develop a final vision.

That vision is finally here! Plans include a multi-use pavilion that consists of a 12x 24 ft. shade structure that can be used for small

gatherings, as a stage for musicians, for movies in the park and other activities. Picnic tables and benches will be installed for alfresco dining and events. A variety of native plants and flowers will be planted, with beds edged in limestone and including other locally quarried stone features (such as round concretions). Raised planters will include seating and mark entrance to the park. Free-standing murals will be placed by the wall of the adjacent building rather than mounted to the wall, with space for multiple smaller murals or one large mural. Utilities are to include both a men's and women's restroom with a

See "Park" page 6

## Former area realtor appears in court



Former area realtor Kayla Errebo appeared before Judge Amy Norton at the Salina-Saline County building Tuesday, March 10 for a preliminary hearing. A preliminary hearing is a court procedure where a judge determines if sufficient evidence exists to imply probable cause to believe a crime has been committed and justifying a trial.

Errebo was arrested in August 2025 for a head-on collision with a vehicle occupied by Mark and Deanna Sommerfeld on a rural Saline County road. Deanna Sommerfeld was pronounced dead at the scene. Errebo was booked into the Saline County jail on requested charges of murder in the second degree, failure to report an injury accident, circumvention of ignition interlock device and probation violation. Errebo had previously pleaded guilty in October 2024 for fleeing and eluding law enforcement, driving under the influence and leaving the scene of accident.

As a result of the preliminary hearing, Judge Norton ruled there is probable cause for Errebo to face trial, saying there is sufficient circumstantial evidence that Errebo was driving under the influence, acted recklessly and exhibited extreme indifference in her actions.

A trial date has not been set.

## FFA members attend Cattlemen's Day



On March 6 FFA members Rose Koster, Ethney Sheldon, Jonathan Bell and Benjamin Bell, were provided a trip to K-State Cattlemen's Day in Manhattan. The trip was made possible by a collaborative effort between a generous anonymous Lincoln County resident who provided the funding and Citizen's State Bank & Trust Co. who helped organize the trip. The students attending were selected by FFA Advisor Morgan Nitsch based on their academic performance, FFA involvement and interest in pursuing a career in the agriculture and animal science industry.

Held at the Bilbrey Family Event Center in Manhattan, students learned from multiple speakers who provided a broad overview of the cattle industry and current economic trends. The students also toured the tradeshow where vendors showed off their new tools of the trade such as mineral for cattle, veterinary expertise and an assortment of resources available for producers. U.S. Premium Beef provided a brisket lunch.

Nitsch viewed this as a wonderful opportunity for the students to step into the real-life boots of a cattle rancher and hear from college professors in the field.

"The kids earned the opportunity to go on this trip and will benefit from the knowledge gained. We want to thank the anonymous donor for making this happen and appreciate the partnership with Citizen's State Bank & Trust for their help in organizing this for the students," Nitsch said.

## Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge held in Sylvan



**Pictured (L-R): Kolton Meyer, Riley Obermueller, Ashton Lyne and Nayalie Polly. (Courtesy Photo)**

**By Jyll Phillips,  
Lincoln-Sentinel**

Personal Finance students competed in the annual county Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge held at Sylvan Grove recently, with four businesses making it to the final round.

The Grand Prized winner was Ashton Lyne. Ashton won \$750 in prize money for her vision of "Lyne Dental and Associates." She automatically qualifies for the state competition to be held April 28-29 in Manhattan.

Nayalie Polly won \$250 in prize money in the Best in Food/Retail category for her version of "Sweet Stems."

Riley Obermueller and Kolton Meyer also won \$250 in prize money for their joint venture "Livestock Solutions."

Congratulations to all the students who competed for the challenging work involved in building their business on paper and presentations, the creativity involved in conceptualizing and strong business ideas.

### Signs of Spring

# WELCOME

# Spring

Spring officially arrives on March 20 with the spring equinox, when day and night are nearly equal in length across the world. From this point forward, daylight slowly begins to win the battle against darkness, bringing longer evenings and warmer days. In Kansas, spring often means unpredictable weather — sunshine one day, snow the next — but it also signals the return of green grass, budding trees, migrating birds, and farmers preparing their fields for the growing season. It's nature's way of reminding us that after a long winter, new beginnings are just around the corner.

### Cash Grain

Corn.....	\$4.02
Milo.....	\$3.62
Soybeans.....	\$11.14
Wheat.....	\$5.64

*Cash prices courtesy of  
Ag Mark*

## Community Calendar

**Thursday, March 19**

USD 299: :30pm FFA Ag in the Classroom

**Friday, March 20**

USD 299: NHS help with Special Olympics; 5:30pm Softball Kick-Off Season Cookoff

**Saturday, March 21**

USD 298: LINCOLN COUNTY REC - SOCCER 8 AM - 1 PM

**Sunday, March 22**

Lincoln: 2 pm Easter Egg Hunt - Lincoln Park Manor

USD 298: USD 298: LINCOLN COUNTY REC - SOCCER 8 AM - 1 PM

**Monday, March 23**

**Tuesday, March 24**

USD 298: BASEBALL @ LUCAS - 4:00 PM  
USD 299: 4pm Baseball vs. KSHSAA sanctioned home school team (Wichita Defenders); 4pm Softball Pratt-Skyline @ Pratt

**Wednesday, March 25**

USD 299: Government Field Trip State Capital

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

Lincoln County Historical Society meets third Wednesday of each month @ 5 p.m.; Lincoln County Historical Museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Call 202.744.9041.

LCEDF meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Courthouse basement. Call 524-8954 for meeting time.

The Lincoln County Commission meets each Monday, and the last working day of the month, at the courthouse.



## Students visit WWI Museum and Memorial

LJSHS students in US History and Government recently visited the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Mo. Besides touring the museum complex and seeing the Kansas City skyline from the memorial tower, the students had a rare and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see America's founding documents that are on temporary exhibit from the National Archives.

This special exhibit included numerous documents including an original draft copy of the US Constitution, an original engraving of the Declaration of Independence and the signed Treaty of Paris that concluded the American Revolutionary War.



Pictured (L-R), back row: Dyelan Reed (Network Kansas), Gage Meier and Carter Johnson (Meier & Johnson Precision Electrics, LLC), Riley Obermueller and Kolton Meyer (Livestock Solutions, LLC), Braden Nelson and Vance Dohl (Cedar Defeaters, LLC), Kelly Gourley (LCEDF). Front row: Harlee Nelson (Harlee's Strike Zone, LLC), LeeAllie Wacker and Josie Svaty (Mini Mustangs Daycare, LLC), Ashton Lyne (Lyne Dental & Associates), Nayalie Polly (SweetStems). Not shown: Molly Heller (Molly Makes, LLC) (courtesy photo)

## 9th annual Entrepreneurship Challenge

The Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation (LCEDF) held its 9th annual Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) on Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, in Sylvan Grove. Fifty-four students from both the USD 298-Lincoln and USD 299-Sylvan/Lucas schools participated. The YEC challenges students to think entrepreneurial and develop business plans. Those plans are then presented to judges through a written executive summary, formal presentations, and trade-show booths. Prize money for the YEC was provided by Network Kansas, a statewide organization that supports business development and entrepreneurship.

The top business recognized as the Grand Prize winner with \$750 cash was Lyne Dental & Associates.

Best in Business awards with a \$250 prize each were in the following categories:

- Service 1 - Mini Mustangs, LLC
- Service 2 - Harlee's Strike Zone, LLC
- Food/Retail 1 - Molly Makes, LLC
- Food/Retail 2 - Sweet Stems
- Agriculture/Wildlife - Livestock Solutions, LLC
- Construction/Equipment/Manufacturing - Meier & Johnson Precision Electrics LLC

The Lincoln County Farm Bureau award went to Cedar Defeaters, LLC

The top business recognized as the Grand Prize winner with \$750 cash was Lyne Dental & Associates.

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, March 2, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Ken Meitler and Member Leon Hart present. Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Machado was in attendance as recording secretary.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson, Dawn Snyder, Mona Buttenhoff, Brandon Cochran, Rodney Larson, Jesse Meyer, Char Chase, Felicia Strahm, Lisa Feldkamp, Dena Jensen, Jesse Meyer, and Scott Wright.

Correspondence: bills for Lincoln Park Manor, and an email from the Nursing Home Administrator identifying doors as a greater need project for potential WEB fund expense. County Administrator Adam Robertson discussed comments received from County Attorney Wright concerning county-owned property in Section 36 Marion Township, and the Scouler proposed needs for the lease agreement; District Court Clerk Lisa Feldkamp provided quotes received to paint the courtroom, the board took no action and suggested that the project be advertised; discussed Public Works activities, the Westfall Rd repair options and signage to warn drivers, will begin verification of invoices prior to submission of the invoices to be paid, and discussed the Spill Prevention Plan.

Dawn Snyder, 12th Judicial District Community Corrections/Juvenile Services, requested signature approval for the FY27 comprehensive grant applications. Debora

Smith moved to approve the FY 2027 Adult Comprehensive Plan Grant and FY 2027 Juvenile Comprehensive Plan Grant, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Health Nurse/Administrator Mona Buttenhoff reported department activities, including: the department vehicle has been repaired; received a request for funding from the Delia Pittard Bequest; weekly check-ins on the department handheld radios are not working; and inquired about the procedure for time-off requests for department heads. Debora Smith moved to appoint Mona Buttenhoff to the Delia Pittard Inheritance Guideline Committee and Children's Health Care Endowment Fund Guideline Committee, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried.

Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran provided an update on department activities, noting that he has not applied for any grants at this time, but is aware of grant application deadlines.

Former Water Recovery Team Members Rodney Larson and Jesse Meyer met with the board to discuss the remaining funds left in the water recovery fund. Larson disagreed with the advice previously given by County Attorney Wright on how to disburse the money from the inactive savings account. Larson provided a history of how the funds were received and used, and requested that the money be distributed equally among all living former members. County Attorney Wright addressed questions and offered that the members could reorganize and request the funds, or that the board could consider

donating the funds to another water recovery team or the rescue squad. Larson will meet with the former members to discuss it further.

Char Chase discussed an online chart showing that property taxes have increased by 50% in the county and inquired why they have increased and what can be done to help reduce taxes. Chase shared concerns about the condition of county roads and asked questions about the use of funds generated if the sales tax proposal were approved, and the recycling center.

The board discussed with County Attorney Wright the county-owned property in Section 36 of Marion Township, which has been marketed since its purchase as free land for commercial development. Wright related that there are statutes that allow cities to offer land as an incentive, but not counties, stating that the county should cease advertising it as free land.

Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm requested an executive session to discuss potential hires. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for thirty minutes for the purpose of discussing applicants for county-wide open positions, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 11:12 a.m. Time out: 11:42 a.m.

The chairman convened the meeting to regular session at 11:42 a.m. with no action taken.

Deb - See "COMMISSION" page 6



**Monday, March 23**

Smothered Chicken, Baby Bakers, Green Beans, Strawberry Shortcake, Roll & Milk

**Tuesday, March 24**

Beef Patty, Potatoes w/Gravy, Carrots, Pineapple, Roll & Milk

**Wednesday, March 25**

Chili, Coleslaw, Crackers, Peaches, Cinnamon Roll & Milk

**Thursday, March 26**

Chicken Parmesan, Spaghetti Noodles, Italian Veggies, Cinnamon Applesauce, Roll & Milk

**Friday, March 27**

Salmon Patty, Tator Tots, Baked Beans, Apricots, Bread & Milk

Menu is subject to change.

Call 785-524-4738 before 9:30 a.m. to reserve a lunch.

The suggested donation for people over 60 or with current paperwork \$4.00. For people without paperwork or under 60, meals are \$7.00, mandatory.

### Knights of Columbus Shrimp Boil

**Friday, March 27**  
5 - 7 pm

**St. Patrick's Parish**  
206 N 5th St, Lincoln

**Adults \$20 - Children Under 12 \$9**  
*All you can eat*

Raffling TWO halves of a hog & basic processing at Glasco Locker.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5  
Winners drawn  
Friday, March 27 at 7 pm  
**Everyone Welcome!**

# Contact Information: Lincoln Sentinel-Republican

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

## OBITUARIES



**Omar William Hair**  
Feb. 22, 1958 - March 5, 2026

Omar William Hair, 68, passed away, surrounded by family, Thursday, March 5, 2026 in Salina, KS. He was born February 22, 1958 in Rapid City, SD to Lyle William and Patricia Ann (Chard) Hair. Omar was an electrical engineer for Phillips Lighting and a US Air Force veteran. He married Carol Wheeler Caswell in Wichita, KS on February 8, 2008.

Omar is survived by his wife Carol of Lincoln; sons, Michael Hair (Michelle) of Lincoln, KS, David Hair (Ashley) of Golden Valley, MN, Bryan Caswell (Deidre) of Wich-

ita, and Zachary Caswell (Holly) of Bend, OR; grandchildren, Lyle, Elisa, and Ian Hair, Vyolet, Eleanor, Freyja, Juniper, and Griffin Caswell; mother Patricia Hair of Lincoln; and siblings, Patricia Nelson, Kathy Nelson, and Karl Hair. He was preceded in death by his father Lyle and brothers, Steven and Matthew. Memorial service: 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 13, 2026 at Lincoln United Methodist Church with inurnment following at Lincoln Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to Lincoln Quilt Guild, c/o, Hall Chapel, PO Box 37, Lincoln, KS 67455. Condolences can be left at hallchapel.com.



**Jerry Lee Ostermann**  
May 17, 1950 - March 11, 2026

Jerry Lee Ostermann, age 75, died peacefully at his home in Sylvan Grove, Kansas, with his loving wife and son at his side on March 11, 2026.

Jerry was born on May 17, 1950, in Ellsworth, Kansas, to Don and Elda (Richard) Ostermann, who preceded him in death, as did his brother Alan. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Becky (Smith) Ostermann; their son Chad of DeSoto, KS; his sister Linda Laird of Topeka, KS; his brother Scott (Chris) of Abilene, KS; and numerous beloved nieces, nephews, and in-laws and their families.

Growing up on a farm along the river surrounded by horses, livestock, and abundant opportunities for fishing and bow hunting pro-

vided an ideal playground for young Jerry. Coupled with access to farm tools, his creativity was unleashed, especially when his father gave him a welder in eighth grade. By 13, he was building polished, professional devices for the farm, demonstrating early his ingenuity and inventive mind. His first creation, a three-wheel go-kart, became a favorite for cousins and friends, embodying the joy he found in creating for others.

Jerry graduated from Kansas State University in 1973 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering, a field that perfectly matched his natural curiosity and talent for solving practical problems. First and foremost an agricultural and biological engineer, he became a lifelong innovator and inventor, holding at least nine U.S. patents in livestock-weighting and sorting technology and never stopped designing and patenting for more than 40 years.

His professional and community accomplishments reflected his calm persistence, optimism, and quiet determination. He was recognized as Kansas Young Engineer of the Year, served as State President of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, and was an officer in Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He also served his country as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, including training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, and later as president of the Kansas Manufacturing Association. In his local community, he served 13 years on the Sylvan Unified School Board, including time as school board president, helping

guide a school merger that benefited students and staff. A lifelong fan of Kansas State University and football, Jerry was also an accomplished athlete, holding several track records on the Sylvan Sprint Relay team and earning a state championship in indoor track and field.

Above all, Jerry's greatest pride came from his family. He was a devoted husband, always supportive and encouraging, and a loving father who consistently cheered on and championed his son, Chad. His life was a testament to curiosity, ingenuity, kindness, faith, and practical solutions, leaving a legacy that lives on in the work he created and the family he nurtured.

Jerry L. Ostermann will be remembered for his optimism, calm persistence, inventive spirit, and unwavering love, qualities that touched everyone who knew him.

A celebration of Jerry's life will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 11AM at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Lucas, KS. A luncheon will follow at Sylvan Senior Center. A private inurnment will be at the Prairie Home Cemetery in Topeka, KS at a later date.

Memorials are suggested to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Post Rock Community Foundation - Sylvan Area Fund, American Cancer Association, and American Lung Association and may be sent to Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home, 610 24th Street - PO Box 533, Wilson, KS 67490.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.plumeroverlease.com

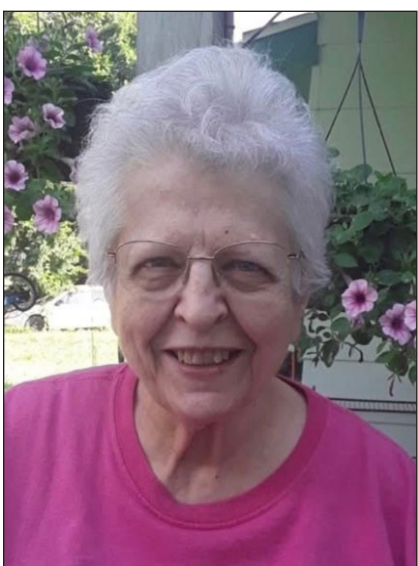
Born July 17, 1941, in Columbus, Ohio, to Alvin John and Madalene Rose (Bailey) Kleinschmidt, Donna's lifelong love of reading and books led her to earn a BA in English from Fort Hays State, and then she spent 45 years in the Lyons USD 405 schools as a teacher and librarian. Her dedication was recognized in 1976 when her colleagues named her Master Teacher of the Year. Donna stayed engaged with her students long after they left her classroom, showing her deep commitment to their growth and well-being.

Beyond her career, Donna was a member of First United Methodist Church and the Kiwanis Club in Lyons. She avidly tracked many sports, especially the KU Jayhawks, and often followed former players into the pros. In her free time, she enjoyed photography, crocheting, stained glass, and playing cards and Scrabble with friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Douglas Surprise; Doug's father, Curtis Surprise; her brother, Bob Kleinschmidt; and her sister-in-law, Arlene Kleinschmidt.

Donna is survived by her nephew, Jeff (Sarah) Kleinschmidt; nieces, Holly (Camron) Erway and Kelli (Lloyd) Walker; stepdaughters, Julie (David) Surprise and Joy (Dee) Poindexter; and Brian (Linda) Friess, whom she held dear as family; as well as her close friend and caregiver, Lee Ann Sidebottom. She is also survived by cousins, former colleagues, students, and many friends, reflecting the wide reach of her friendship.

Viewing will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 14, at Birzer Funeral Home, Lyons, with the service following at 11:00 a.m. Burial will take place at 2:00 p.m. in Vesper Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Lyons USD 405 library in care of Birzer Funeral Homes.



**Donna June Surprise**  
July 17, 1941 - March 4, 2026

Donna June Surprise, 84, of Lyons, Kansas, died March 4, 2026, at Sandstone Heights in Little River, Kansas.



**BETHANY CHURCH**  
Eight miles north, six miles west and one mile north of Lincoln  
Sunday School @ 9:45 am  
Worship Service @ 11:00 am  
Evening Service @ 7:00 pm

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS**  
Pastor Christopher Craig  
Sylvan Grove, Kansas  
Sunday School following Worship  
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am

**BEVERLY COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
www.beverlycommunitychurch.org  
Pastor Toby Flaming  
Sunday School @ 9:30 am  
Morning Worship @ 10:45 am

**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School @ 9:30 am  
Worship Service @ 10:30 am  
Nursery available during service  
Light Keepers Wed. @6:30 grades 6-12  
Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7am @ The Cube

**CULVER METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Demele Eckart  
401 Main Street, Culver, Ks  
Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am  
Saturday Coffee @ 8-10 am

**DENMARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, ELCA**  
Worship Service @ 10:30 am

**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Jonathan Schale  
Lincoln Park Manor @ 9:30 am  
Bible Study @ 10:30 am  
Worship Hour @ 11:00 am  
Afternoon Worship @ 2:00 pm  
Wed. Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Carolyn Allen, Barnard  
Morning Worship @ 11:00 pm

**GRACE CHAPEL-HUNTER**  
Pastors Kaye & Jeff Metzler  
Worship Service @ 9:00 am

**LINCOLN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
www.lincolncommunitychurch.org  
Pastor Steven Rohn  
Sunday School @ 9:30 am  
Worship Service @ 10:30 am  
Women of Grace.Wed. @ 5:30 pm  
To rent the cube call Michael Pickering 785-488-7049.  
Sunday Evening Service @ 6:30  
Adventure Club Wed. 6pm - 7pm  
Ages 3-12

**Barnard United Methodist Church**



Pastors Kaye and Jeff Metzler  
**Service Times:**  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Church schedules are made possible by the following sponsors:

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**



If you would like to sponsor these area churches, please contact the Lincoln Sentinel at 785-524-4200.

## CONSUMER CONNECTION

### Latest storm damage could attract unregistered contractors

TOPEKA - Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach is urging Kansas residents to use caution to avoid scams by unregistered contractors following recent storm damage across Kansas.

"After a storm, our instinct is to clean up and make repairs as quickly as possible," Kobach said. "When considering roofing work on a home or business, it is important that consumers make sure their roofing contractor is properly registered before signing any contract or having any work done."

Consumers should request a

copy of their roofing contractor's registration certificate or the company's registration number. Consumers may confirm the company's registration has an "In Good Standing" status at <https://www.ag.ks.gov/divisions/public-protection/resources/roofing-registration-directory#!/>.

Working with a roofer that is registered is a bare minimum to help prevent problems. The attorney general's office also recommends the following tips in dealing with any unregistered contractors, including roofers:

- Get recommendations and references.
- Get at least three written estimates from different contractors.
- Check contractor complaint records with the Better Business Bureau.
- Understand your payment options and right to cancel.

Staff from the attorney general's Roofing Registration Unit have been in contact with local officials to assist in responding to roofing contractors and consumers. The requirement to register with the attorney general's

office is in addition to any other local requirements that may be imposed by cities or counties.

With few exceptions, the Kansas Roofing Contractor Registration Act requires roofing contractors to obtain a registration certificate from the Kansas Attorney General in order to legally solicit or provide commercial or residential roofing services for a fee in Kansas. It is designed to ensure that legitimate roofing contractors are complying with state requirements, such as carrying appropriate insurance, and to help

prevent fly-by-night operators from taking advantage of Kansas consumers.

The attorney general requests that Kansas promptly report any unregistered person or company attempting to sell roofing services. Any Kansas, who have problems with unregistered roofing contractors, may report the occurrence to the attorney general's Civil Division, Licensing and Inspections Unit on the website at <https://www.ag.ks.gov/file-a-complaint/report-an-unregistered-roofer#!/> or by calling 785.368.6644.

Got a local story or event? Email: [lincolnsnews@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnsnews@gmail.com) today!

## NEWS BRIEF

### K-4 BRIDGE REPAIR TO BEGIN MARCH 12 OVER SMOKY HILL RIVER

Beginning Thursday, March 12, the Kansas Department of Transportation plans to begin repairs on the K-4 bridge over the Smoky Hill River.

During bridge repair, temporary traffic signals will direct one lane of traffic through construction at a reduced speed. Motorists should anticipate delays of up to 15 minutes.

Sporer Land Development Inc., of Oakley, is the primary contractor for the \$23.9 million realignment project and has scheduled this bridge repair part of the project to be completed by this fall. KDOT urges all motorists to stay alert and follow all posted signs when approaching and driving through a work zone. To stay aware of all highway construction projects across Kansas, visit [kandrive.gov](http://kandrive.gov) or call 511.

## POST ROCK EXTENSION DISTRICT

### Thank a farmer TODAY!

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

For 250 years, agriculture has been the vital thread in the fabric of our nation. America's farm and ranch families represent the cornerstone of our freedom and way of life – now and in the future. American agriculture is the backbone of our nation's economy, and we express our appreciation for all who contribute to the U.S. agriculture industry.

National Agriculture Week, March 15-21, features the recognition of the strong agriculture tradition in Kansas and across the nation and the role the agriculture industry plays in the Kansas economy. This year's theme, "Agriculture: Together We Grow!" describes the significant importance of our producers and that Agriculture is a part of all of us.

This special recognition helps the consumer understand how food and fiber products are produced along with building appreciation of the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. In addition, the recognition will build consumer awareness and value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy as well as acknowledging and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

According to the Kansas Ag Statistics, each Kansas farmer feeds approximately 165 people around the

state which is a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960's. While farmland may stretch far and wide, the actual percentage of the U.S. population involved in agriculture is only 1.3%, or 2.6 million people! But quite simply, American agriculture is doing MORE and doing it BETTER!

Have you ever considered how agriculture starts with the growing and harvesting of food and fiber, and it ends with almost everything we eat, wear, and use and therefore helps make us...WHO WE ARE! From the food we eat and the fuel for our vehicles, to the fiber in the clothes we wear, and the oil used to make kids' crayons, agriculture touches everyone in some way. Consumers around the nation will be learning about agriculture's important role in their daily lives as part of National Agriculture Month during March along with National Agriculture Week, March 15-21, 2026.

Now more than ever, American agriculture is working together with the consumer to provide wholesome, safe, affordable and environmentally friendly products of the consumer's choice. To make this happen, the various production and marketing segments within American agriculture are forming new and unique alliances, working together to better serve the global consumer.

More and more, students and individuals are finding careers in agriculture. The industry needs scientists, biologists, food safety technicians, livestock nutrition specialists, arbor-

ists, or conservationists— one doesn't have to be a farmer or have a direct on-farm job to be involved in the agriculture industry.

Agriculture is a complex and constantly changing industry, striving to meet the needs and concerns of its customers—consumers. It is very important that the public understand agriculture and how closely each person is tied to it. Our food and agriculture industry need the support of all Americans. Agriculture has always and will continue to be our country, state and county mainstay. American agriculture is the foundation of our country. It's the backbone of a healthy and prosperous nation, made possible by the hard work of America's farms and farm families who lead the way in preservation and innovation for the health of our planet. Let's make sure it stays that way! For more information on agriculture contact me at any Post Rock Extension District Office in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

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

## PRAIRIE DOC BY DR. BECCA JORDRE

### Old Age, Only 10 Years Away

Every year I ask my students, "How old is old?" The answers vary, but the most honest response I've ever received came from a patient who said, "Old is 10 years older than my age." We all tend to push aging just out of reach, as though it belongs to someone else.

As a physical therapist, professor and researcher in aging, I see the consequences of that distance every day. When we mentally place older adults in a separate category, we give ourselves permission to speak and act in ways that quietly do harm. We call someone an "old lady" without pause. We dismiss a symptom as "expected at your age." We offer the well-meaning but quietly deflating compliment that someone is doing well "for their age." Each of these small moments narrows what we believe is possible for that person.

This is ageism. Generally unintentional, ever-present in our society.

The problem is not acknowledging that aging brings real changes. It does. Health conditions, pain, and mobility challenges become more common with age, but not in some uniform pattern that warrants focus on a number. The problem is when age becomes the answer rather than the starting point. When decline is the expectation, we stop asking about goals, we stop noticing strengths and we start designing lives around an assumed limitation.

Consider a common piece of advice: move to a single-story home as you grow older. It sounds reasonable. But research tells a more nuanced story. Studies have found that those living in homes with stairs showed less decline in physical function over time compared to those without. Climbing stairs is demanding, repetitive physical work for the legs and heart. Removing that daily challenge in the name of safety may quietly accelerate the very decline we hope to prevent.

This pattern holds more broadly. Research consistently shows that vigorous exercise, not just gentle stretching or slow walks, produces the greatest health benefits as we age. Higher-intensity activity improves strength, balance, heart health and cognitive function in people well into their 80s and 90s. When we steer older adults toward only the lightest, most cautious forms of movement, we deprive them of the very stimulus their bodies need. In trying to protect, we inadvertently take away opportunity.

Language works the same way. When family members, neighbors and health care providers speak as though decline is inevitable, we coach people toward caution, avoidance and withdrawal. Expectation shapes behavior, and low expectations are their own kind of harm.

The answer is not to ignore age or

pretend it doesn't matter. It is to treat aging as a human experience, seeing a person not as a number but as an individual with unique aspirations, interests and abilities.

None of us are exempt from aging. We are all just at different points on the same road. The assumptions we make about older adults today are the assumptions that may one day be made about us. That alone is reason enough to think more carefully about what we say, what we recommend, and what we decide is possible with each passing year.

Dr. Jordre is a professor of physical therapy in the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Dakota. She earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Duke University in 2002 and her Ph.D. in Health Sciences from the University of South Dakota in 2021. She is board certified in Geriatric Physical Therapy and is a Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults. Her research centers on healthy aging, with a particular focus on athletes age 50 and older. 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).

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Total for the Week - Cattle - 3794 & 59 Hogs.

Butcher hog top on Monday was \$79

Bulls - \$225 - \$236 Cows - \$175 - \$187

Strs	Hfhrs
300-400 \$610.00-620.00	300-400 \$580.00-600.00
400-500 \$580.00-600.00	400-500 \$485.00-495.00
500-600 \$525.00-551.00	500-600 \$475.00-485.00
600-700 \$450.00-474.00	600-700 \$400.00-426.00
700-800 \$405.00-419.00	700-800 \$350.00-365.00
800-900 \$342.00-354.50	800-900 \$337.00-343.00
900-1000 \$330.00-351.50	900-1000 \$309.00-330.00

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## Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau - opinion

### Quote, unquote

Greg Doering  
Kansas Farm Bureau

There's nothing more flattering, or dangerous, for writers than having their words quoted in an approving manner. It's the starkest evidence that out of all the combinations of letters and words in existence, they've arranged a few that offer readers clarity, truth or illumination.

A good quote is like a spark hitting dry tinder. As flames follow the spark, a quote fuels inspiration, curiosity or a reader's understanding of the world.

Quotes should be collected like pennies. They should be stashed here and there and discovered again at random intervals like the small fortunes they are. Even then, there will be some that aren't so much saved as they are seared into the mind. You can recall these in

an instant.

The only care to take with any quote is proper attribution. While it's flattering to be quoted, it's quite another to receive credit for someone else's words. Especially if they're terrible.

Any collection of quotes is a good one, though good collectors are always on the hunt for more. Following are some of my favorite quotes but don't mistake that for an endorsement. My fondness for writers and humorists is the product of my own idiosyncrasies.

"You don't have to be crazy to work here, but it helps." — Sign at Jiffy Burger in Smith Center

"One boy's a boy; two boys be half a boy, and three boys be no boy at all, ran the old country saying." — Flora Thompson; often quoted by my grandmother when us boys at the ranch got distracted by shiny

objects.

"The cure to boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." — Dorothy Parker "Being poor is needing that 35-cent raise." — John Scalzi

"Good food is very often, even most often, simple food." — Anthony Bourdain; re Jiffy Burger

"Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain — and most fools do." — Dale Carnegie

"Ignorance is no defense." and "Nothing good happens after 10 p.m." — my dad, who occasionally used both in the same paragraph.

"Fiction is a lie, and good fiction is the truth inside the lie." — Stephen King

"You know, farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." — Dwight Eisenhower

"Nothing so needs reforming as

See "Insight" page 5



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Lincoln Unified School District 298 requests proposals for the replacement of ten (10) doors, five (5) windows, and the front entrance doors and window foyer for the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School located at 701 East North, Lincoln, Kansas 67455. The contractor shall list the start date and the completion date on the proposal, which completion date shall be no later than 6 months after approval of contract.

Plans and specifications can be obtained from Nikki Flinn, Superintendent, 133 East Lincoln Avenue, P.O. Box 289, Lincoln, Kansas 67455, (785) 524-4436. The bidder will have two weeks from this publication to prepare their proposal. Strict adherence to the specifications is required.

Small, minority, veterans, disabled veterans and women's business enterprises are encouraged to participate and bid on this project.

For further information and details of the specifications of the project, please contact the Board of Education office at 133 East Lincoln Avenue, Lincoln, Kansas 67455 or by calling (785) 524-4436.

*Sealed proposals will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., April 1, 2026, at the office of Nikki Flinn, Superintendent, at 133 East Lincoln Avenue, Lincoln, KS 67455. Sealed bid proposals will be opened at 10:00 a.m., April 2, 2026 in the office of the Superintendent.*

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Lincoln Unified School District 298 requests proposals for the replacement of approximately 5,400 square feet of flooring and four (4) classrooms, spaces approximately 800 square feet each for the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School located at 701 East North, Lincoln, Kansas 67455. The contractor shall list the start date and the completion date on the proposal, which completion date shall be no later than 6 months after approval of contract.

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Lincoln Unified School District 298 requests proposals for repairs to exterior facade control joints and sidewalk joint seals for the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School located at 701 East North, Lincoln, Kansas 67455. The contractor shall list the start date and the completion date on the proposal, which completion date shall be no later than 6 months after approval of contract.

Plans and specifications can be obtained from Nikki Flinn, Superintendent, 133 East Lincoln Avenue, P.O. Box 289, Lincoln, Kansas 67455, (785) 524-4436. The bidder will have two weeks from this publication to prepare their proposal. Strict adherence to the specifications is required.

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**Insight/**from page 4

other people's habits." — Mark Twain  
"Anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anybody driving faster than you is a maniac." — George Carlin  
"To alcohol! The cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems." — Homer Simpson  
"I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me." — Hunter S. Thompson  
"I love deadlines. I love the whooshing noise they make as they go by." — Douglas Adams  
"He that would live in peace and at ease must not speak all he knows or judge all he sees." — Benjamin Franklin  
*"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.*

**LCEDF Elections**

It's time for the Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation's trustee position election in Districts 1 & At-Large.

The districts follow the regular County Commissioner districts and any registered Lincoln County voter may vote for the LCEDF trustee in the district where they reside.

District 1 consists Elkhorn, Valley & Franklin Townships.

At-Large consists of any township in the county.

**2026 Nominees are:**  
District 1: Craig Stertz  
At-Large: Julie Flores

Please stop by the LCEDF office in the basement of the courthouse to vote During the week of March 18-25, 2026. Regular office hours are 8:30am-4:30pm. If you need a ballot mailed, please call the office at 785-524-8954.



## MCHHS Earns Top Robotic Surgery Practice Award 2026

Access to advanced surgical care should not depend on geography. For many rural communities, however, distance still shapes whether patients can access timely treatment.

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems (MCHHS) built its robotic-assisted surgery program around that reality, bringing robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery closer to home for patients across North Central Kansas.

That commitment has positioned MCHHS as one of only three Critical Access Hospitals in Kansas offering robotic care. As the program approaches its one-year mark, advanced

minimally invasive procedures are no longer an exception reserved for urban referral centers. They are becoming a routine option in community hospital settings, reducing the need for long-distance travel for patients.

“Our vision is to deliver exceptional healthcare for the rural people,” says Janelle Kircher, CEO. “Investing in surgical robotics was a strategic decision. That decision has spared patients more than an hour of travel to receive advanced surgery.”

### Urban-Level Robotic Precision for Rural Care

MCHHS uses the da Vinci Xi robotic-assisted surgical system for advanced robotic surgery. The system offers refined instrument control and a magnified, high-definition 3D view of the surgical field for the surgeons. Unlike traditional open surgeries, which require large incisions or even standard laparoscopic procedures, the da Vinci system uses small instruments that allow for greater flexibility and precision.

The system’s Firefly imaging technology strengthens intraoperative patient safety by improving anatomical visibility during robotic procedures. Using near-infrared fluorescence with indocyanine green, Firefly helps surgeons visualize structures such as the common bile duct and ureter in real time during surgery. That added visibility improves anatomical identification, supports real-time detection of bile leaks and reduces the risk of injury in procedures where clear confirmation matters most.

Beyond imaging, the da Vinci Xi allows the surgical team to manage higher-complexity cases locally. Patients with obesity or challenging anatomy, who might otherwise require referral

to a distant centre, can now receive advanced care close to home without compromising outcomes.

“We use robotics because it’s a win for the patients and us. It gives surgeons greater precision, and that translates into better outcomes for patients,” says Danny Owens, general surgeon.

In one case, the surgical team removed an obstructing colon cancer in a morbidly obese patient using this technology. The approach enabled the patient to begin chemotherapy sooner while reducing the risk of wound infection and hernia formation.

### Clinical Preparedness for Advanced Rural Surgery

Robotic-assisted surgery changes rural healthcare only when it becomes dependable—repeatable enough to feel routine, not rare.

“We provide the same robotic technology on the same platform used in urban areas to positively impact patient care. As medicine advances, so do improved outcomes, partially due to innovation and technology,” says Mark Banker, general surgeon.

Surgeons complete simulations, tissue models and more than 50 proctored cases before practicing independently, while nursing teams undergo formal education and certification to

support robotic procedures. The result is an operating room where safety and consistency are structured into preparation, not improvised case by case.

Two full-time general surgeons provide daily coverage, enabling patients to move from evaluation to treatment without extended wait times. Access remains driven by clinical need, because scheduling limitations do not dictate care decisions.

Operational discipline connects training and staffing to day-to-day execution. Surgical schedules, room preparation and robotic setup are planned deliberately so procedures start on time and teams operate within a familiar workflow. Data captured through the da Vinci Xi system, including case volume, operative times and performance feedback, is reviewed regularly to sustain repeatable performance standards as robotic-assisted surgery becomes part of routine practice rather than an exception.

All of that reflects MCHHS’s larger philosophy of rural healthcare strength: technology is not pursued for optics. It is adopted with preparation, reinforced by process and shaped around the continuity patients depend on. By aligning advanced capability with rural realities, MCHHS demonstrates that critical-access hospitals can deliver high-standard surgical care, without forcing patients to travel elsewhere for the same level of treatment.

## Farm to Early Childhood Education Opportunity for Kansas Licensed Early Child Care Providers

MANHATTAN, Kansas — The Kansas Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, is accepting applications for Kansas licensed early child care providers to participate in a project to increase child nutrition knowledge and consumption of local fruits and vegetables.

The project titled “Our Earliest Eaters: Bringing the Farm to Kansas Licensed Early Child Care” will provide selected child care providers with age-appropriate agriculture education curriculum about Kansas fruit and vegetable production and resource kits developed by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom at no cost. While teaching the curriculum, early child care providers and organizations administering the project on behalf of child care providers in a community or region will be eligible to receive reimbursement for purchases of locally grown fruits

and vegetables used in the lessons.

The reimbursements offered through this project are a way to incentivize local food purchases to benefit our state’s specialty crop producers. By building relationships between licensed early child care providers and local farmers and producers, this project will increase nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops in our earliest eaters, while creating new market outlets for Kansas specialty crop producers.

This is the second round of this project; in early 2025 the program was open to licensed early child care facilities. The 2026 round of the project is intended for family child care homes. Individual family child care home providers and organizations who intend to administer the project on behalf of a group of family child care homes in their community or region are eligible to apply.

Applications are due to KDA no

later than 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2026. Applicants should demonstrate their passion for agriculture education in early childhood development and capacity for purchasing local fruits and vegetables. Recipients will be notified in May if they have been selected to participate in the project. For more information, please visit: [agriculture.ks.gov/grants](http://agriculture.ks.gov/grants) or contact Brittney Grother, KDA ag marketing grants coordinator, at 785-564-6797 or [Brittney.Grother@ks.gov](mailto:Brittney.Grother@ks.gov).

Funding for this project was made possible by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service.

The vision of the Kansas Department of Agriculture is to provide an ideal environment for long-term, sustainable agricultural prosperity and statewide economic growth. The agency will achieve this by advocating for sectors at all levels and providing industry outreach.

## KS selected as core state for U.S. Department of Labor’s NEON Initiative to expand Employment Opportunities

TOPEKA - Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Secretary Laura Howard announced today that Kansas has been selected as one of seven core states for fiscal year 2026 in the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) initiative.

This selection provides Kansas with 550 technical service hours from subject-matter experts, delivering intensive policy technical assistance and ongoing mentoring to support strategic efforts to increase employment opportunities for individuals with mental health conditions.

Through NEON, KDADS will advance key goals to improve employment outcomes for people with mental health conditions, including those with co-occurring disabili-

ties. The initiative will strengthen cross-system coordination among state agencies—such as vocational rehabilitation, mental health services, developmental disability services, and workforce agencies—and foster sustainable systems change to promote evidence-based practices and data-driven decisions.

“Being selected for NEON represents a tremendous opportunity for Kansas to break down barriers to employment and empower individuals with mental health conditions to achieve financial security and independence,” KDADS Behavioral Health Commissioner Drew Adkins said. “These service hours will provide us with the tools to enhance collaboration across systems and implement effective policies.”

The NEON initiative, launched by ODEP in 2019, focuses on expanding job opportunities and improving financial well-being for Ameri-

cans with disabilities by promoting sustainable employment outcomes.

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy Julie Hocker noted in the federal announcement: “...For too long, there have been numerous barriers to employment for people with mental health conditions, particularly those with mental illness. NEON will help states remove those barriers so more Americans with mental health conditions can succeed in competitive integrated employment.”

Kansas joins Colorado, Kentucky, Maine, New York, Tennessee, and the District of Columbia as core states for this year’s program.

For more details on the NEON announcement, visit the U.S. Department of Labor website at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20260310>.

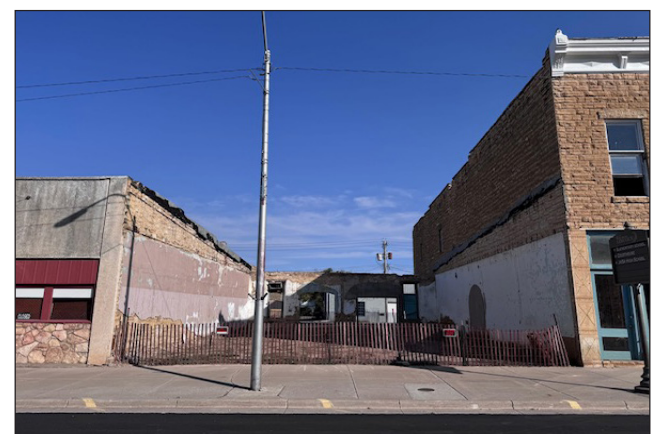
### Park/ from page 1

small storage room and two water hydrants. Ten standard electric outlets will be located throughout the park, with two electrical hookups for food trucks and musicians, both 30- and 50-amp service. Parking will be in the back for food trucks and/or loading and unloading equipment for events.

While the steering committee was working to develop a vision for the property, LCEDF was working to secure funding for the first critical phase which is repairing and repointing the masonry walls of the adjacent buildings. This work has begun thanks to generous donations by the Wind Economic Benefit (WEB) Fund, Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Post Rock Community Foundation (PRCF) and the Lincoln Center Improvement Committed (LCIC).

While the repairs are underway, the committee has fundraising next on their agenda. Although both LCEDF and the steering committee believe there are additional grant opportunities available to assist with the project, those opportunities require matching funds.

To donate, checks may be made out to the Lincoln Co. Eco. Dev. Foundation, 216 E. Lincoln Avenue, Lincoln, KS 67455. Donations are tax deductible.



### Commission/ from page 2

ora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing applicants for county-wide open positions, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Ken Meitler. Time in: 11:42 a.m. Time out: 11:52 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to a regular session at 11:52 a.m. Debora Smith moved to employ Harley Strishock as a full-time Equipment Operator, Grade 14 Step 15, \$17.83 per hour, effective March 2, 2026, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to employ Keegan Budreau as a part-time Transfer Station Operator, Grade 13 Step 6, \$15.09 per hour, effective March 2, 2026, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to employ Richard Rightmire as a part-time per-need Transportation Bus Driver, Grade 12 Step 9, \$15.02 per hour, effective

March 2, 2026, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve a conditional offer of employment to Bret Kingan as a part-time per-need Transportation Bus Driver, Grade 12 Step 9, \$15.02 per hour, contingent upon pre-employment testing, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to employ Jennifer Bryant as a part-time custodian, Grade 14 Step 9, \$16.45, qualifying as a full-time benefit-eligible employee meeting hour worked requirements when combined with dispatch hours, effective March 2, 2026, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Bryant will continue in her position as an Emergency Communications Officer, and if overtime is incurred, the department causing the overtime will be responsible for the overtime compensation. Debora Smith moved to amend the physical qualifications to a level 2 for the custodian position, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve minutes for the February 23 and February 27 meetings, seconded by

Ken Meitler. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to remove the tract of land in Section 36, Township 11, Range 8, from being advertised as free land, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

The board discussed the email from nursing home administrator Diane Walters regarding replacing the doors previously priced as a special project rather than replacing windows. The board agreed to the suggestion.

The board requested that Administrator Robertson obtain bids to replace the courtroom lighting, meet with Sheriff Florence about the radio encryption project, and gather information on bailers that could be used at the transfer station without costly electrical upgrades. The group discussed the Westfall Road and actions currently being taken to address the worst areas, as well as potential funding sources to assist with major repairs.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026.

*Thank you, readers!*



# NORTHERN PLAINS LEAGUE BASKETBALL

ALL LEAGUE BASKETBALL TEAMS

Photos by Becky Rathbun and Lori Spear



FIRST TEAM  
*Carter Johnson*  
Sylvan-Lucas



FIRST TEAM  
*Xavier Miller*  
Lincoln



FIRST TEAM  
*Jayden Meitter*  
Sylvan-Lucas



SECOND TEAM  
*Jeremiah Miller*  
Lincoln



SECOND TEAM  
*Lane Brokes*  
Sylvan-Lucas



SECOND TEAM  
*Alyssa Lopez*  
Lincoln



SECOND TEAM  
*Harlee Nelson*  
Sylvan-Lucas



THIRD TEAM  
*Dominic Davidson*  
Sylvan-Lucas



THIRD TEAM  
*Vance Dohl*  
Sylvan-Lucas

## Congratulations to Area Honorable Mentions:



*Jadyn Krone*  
Tescott



*Lauren Brokes*  
Sylvan-Lucas



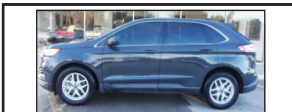
*Tennyson Donley*  
Lincoln



*Jace Krone*  
Tescott

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2021 Ford Edge SEL AWD, Lithium Gray w/ Black Leather, 2.0 Eco Boost, SEL, Cold Weather Package, Heated Seats, Carplay, Premium 18" Wheels, 98K Miles #02123 \$15,850



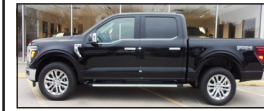
2019 JEEP Wrangler Rubicon, Sting Gray w/Black Cloth, 2.0L 4cyl Turbo, Hardtop Headliner, Remote Keyless Entry, Remote Start, Navigation, 44K Miles #02491 \$37,850



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



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, FX4 off Road, 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



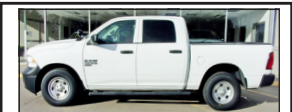
2024 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4WD, White w/ Slate Cloth, 7.3L V-8, 176" Wheel Base, Trailer Brake Controller, Heated Trailer Tow Mirrors, 24K Miles #16343 \$53,850



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



2010 Ford F150 Super Crew Lariat 4x4, White w/ Tan Leather, 5.4L V8, Lariat, Heated Cooled Seats, Local Owner, 4X4, V8, AM/FM/SAT Radio, 246K Miles #23143 \$6,995



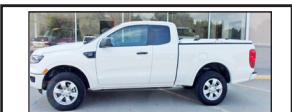
2021 Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT, 4X4, White w/ Gray Cloth, V-6, Police Package, One Owner, New Tires, AM/FM Radio, Power Windows, Power Locks, 115K Miles #26074 \$18,850



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



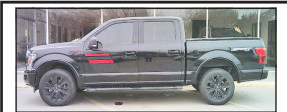
2022 Ford Expedition Timberline 4dr 4X4, Star White Tri-Coat w/ Deep Cypress Leather, 3.5L Eco Boost, Power Liftgate, Roof Rack, Steel Skid Plates, 73K Miles #36384 \$46,850



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



2016 Ford F150 XLT Sport Supercrew, Black w/ Black/Red Cloth, 3.5 V6 Eco Boost, Special Edition XLT Sport, 20" Premium Dark Tarnished Wheels, 104K Miles #40077 \$23,850



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



2023 Ford Escape ST, Iconic Silver w/ Ebony Cloth, 1.5L EcoBoost, Vista Roof, Cold Weather Package, Tech Package #1, 18" Metallic Painted Wheels, 6K Miles #43190 \$27,850



2023 Ford F150 Supercrew Raptor, Code Orange w/Ebony Leather, 3.5L EcoBoost High Output, Raptor Carbon Package, Raptor Graphics, 56K Miles #46608 \$63,850



2017 Ford F250 Crew Cab Lariat, White Platinum w/ Black Leather, 6.7L Turbo Diesel, 3.55 Ratio, Chrome Package, Extended Running Boards, Navigation, 134K Miles #48449 \$36,850



2020 Infiniti QX80 4dr SUV, Silver Metallic w/ Black Leather, 5.6L V-8, Leather Trim, 3rd Row Seating, Power Sunroof, Heated/Cooled Seats, 97K Miles #53110 \$24,850



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

# Kansas Tourism Fuels Visitor Experiences with \$1 Million in Attraction Development Grants

TOPEKA – Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland today announced that \$1 million in Attraction Development Grant funding was awarded to support the development and enhancement of tourism projects across Kansas. The Kansas Tourism grant program supports projects that strengthen visitors' experiences while driving local economic growth through job creation, private investment and increased visitation.

"Investments in tourism and our state attractions have been a powerful driver in economic growth for our communities of all sizes and for all of Kansas," Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "By pairing state support with local commitment, we're expanding tourism opportunities that create positive economic returns by bringing more out-of-state visitors and out-of-state dollars to Kansas."

This round of Attraction Development Grant funding will support 22 projects, including new attractions and enhancements to existing tourism assets. Collectively, recipients will invest more than \$12 million in matching funds to bring the projects to life.

"Travelers in Kansas are looking for experiences that feel authentic, creative and rooted in place," Kansas Tourism Director Bridgette Jobe said. "The grants are designed to help turn unique and inspiring ideas into tangible projects that will go to support and encourage visitation and elevate local economies."

A few highlights from this round of awardees include:

- A climate-controlled building for dock-diving dog events at Heartland Hounds in Emporia; \$100,000
- A new, 70,000 square foot habitat for Amur tigers at the Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina; \$75,000
- World's Largest Toto in Wamego; \$16,000

To view the full list of Attraction Development Grant recipients, visit <https://www.travelks.com/travel-industry/programs-and-resources/grants/attraction-development-grants/>.

For more information on the grant program, visit <https://www.travelks.com/travel-industry/programs-and-resources/grants/attraction-development-grants/>, or contact Kansas Tourism Grant Program Manager Babette Dixon at [Babette.Dixon1@ks.gov](mailto:Babette.Dixon1@ks.gov).

A full list of grants offered by the Kansas Department of Commerce can be found at <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/grantscalendar/>.

About Kansas Tourism: The mission of Kansas Tourism is to inspire travel to and throughout Kansas to maximize the positive impacts that tourism has on our state and local communities. Kansas Tourism works hand in hand with other Commerce community programs to elevate and promote Kansas as a tourist destination. Kansas Tourism oversees all tourism marketing and PR for the state, produces travel publications and advertising, manages state Travel Information Centers, manages both the Kansas By-ways program and the Kansas Agritourism program, approves tourist signage applications, produces the KANSAS! Magazine, and provides financial and educational support to the tourism industry in Kansas through grants, education and support.

About the Kansas Department of Commerce:

As the state's lead economic development agency, the Kansas Department of Commerce strives to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve prosperity in Kansas. Commerce accomplishes its mission by developing relationships with corporations, site location consultants and stakeholders in Kansas, the nation and world. Our strong partnerships allow us to help create an environment for existing Kansas businesses to grow and foster an innovative, competitive landscape for new businesses. Through Commerce's project successes, Kansas was awarded Area Development Magazine's prestigious Gold Shovel award in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, and was awarded the 2021 and 2022 Governor's Cup by Site Selection Magazine.

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9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

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If you meet these criteria, you may be eligible for the SHIELD blood test at no cost this month!

Important: Self-pay and Medicaid patients are NOT eligible for this offer. The out-of-pocket cost for the SHIELD test is \$1,495. This special coverage is only available during March, so don't wait!

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# Art, food, fun on Hump Day April 1 in Lucas with artists, writers, a camel, a mobile tour of the Garden of Eden, and lots more

LUCAS - April Fools-a-Palooza in Lucas will have more artists, art activities, food, and whimsy than you can shake a stick (or is that a straw?) at, and it's all happening Wednesday, April 1. This year it's Hump Day, and visitors just might catch sight of a camel rambling the sidewalks thanks to Luray artist Doris Johnson. Visitors will vote to select the winner in the Camel Art Contest, and will meet the artists at several Lucas studios and art environments.

The Grassroots Art Center and the Garden of Eden will offer free admission for April 1 only. The day-long event also features a book signing, a postcard-writing workshop, and a post office box art installation. The annual event is produced by the creativity and generosity of local and regional artists.

April 1 is the Kansas launch date for a new mobile guide to the Garden of Eden, 305 E. Second. Lindsborg artist Mike Hartung is the voice of Garden of Eden creator S.P. Dinsmoor for the guide's audio. The Bloomberg Connects cell phone app features sculpture narratives and the history of the Garden of Eden. A QR code will take you to Hartung's rendition of Dinsmoor explaining each sculpture. To celebrate, admission to the Garden of Eden will be free to all visitors for April Fools-a-Palooza from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Garden of Eden is the fourth Kansas addition to the worldwide Bloomberg Connects app, and one of only a few artist-created environments represented thus far. Visitors are encouraged to use the digital guide both before they visit and while they are on site in Lucas. Download Bloomberg Connects free from any app store.

Hump Day Headquarters will be Switchgrass Art Co-op, 208 S. Main. April Fools-a-Palooza information including a schedule and map of all sites and activities will be available. Thousands of works of art for sale, a thrift shop, and coffee, breakfast, lunch and snacks will be available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The co-op is a volunteer-run, nonprofit art gallery represent-

ing 28 Kansas artists. Switchgrass makes art accessible to all while supporting artists through affordable retail space and community programs.

Along with art works for sale at Switchgrass, art and souvenirs may also be purchased at artist sites, the Garden of Eden, and the Grassroots Art Center.

The Lucas Community Room will be the hub for viewing and voting in the Camel Art contest, as well as offering walking tacos for sale as a library fundraiser, free egg decorating for all, and a display by Victorian Geckos, a Lucas breeder and vendor of leopard geckos. Entrance to the Community Room is on Second Street around the corner from the library's entrance at 135 S. Main.

Lucas's don't-miss, award-winning public restroom Bowl Plaza will be open all day at 121 S. Main featuring ceramics by Eric Abraham and mosaics by Mri Pilar, Lindsborg.

3 Art Activities:

Lucas area creators invite artists of all ages to enter the second annual April Fools-a-Palooza art contest. Work submitted must be original (not AI) and inspired by Hump Day, for example camels, humpback whales, bison, or the humps of mountains and hills. Early submissions from March 26-29 can be dropped off at Switchgrass, 208 S. Main. Submissions on April 1 should be dropped off from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Lucas Community Center,

135 S. Main. Visitors are invited to vote for their favorite work between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The winner will be announced at 4 p.m. More details and entry form are available online at [lucaskansas.com/april-fools-a-palooza](http://lucaskansas.com/april-fools-a-palooza).

At Woodpecker Archives, 209 S. Main, meet Sarah Green, Wichita, author of the zine *Movable Monument* from 10 a.m. to noon. Green will sign copies of her publication that tells the story of the Ladies' Columbian Corn Fountain. Initially built for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the fountain has survived abandonment, disrepair, and fluctuating public approval. Today, the

10-foot-tall carved limestone ear of corn calls the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson home. For Green, the fountain tells not only the story of Kansas civic engagement, public art, and community pride, but also the story of Kansas agriculture. Her work is the first publication from Rock Paper Feather Press, whose opening project will include a series of small-batch, single-topic publications featuring stories that take place in Kansas.

Adults and children of reading age will write Postcards to the Future about their hopes and dreams at 2 p.m. in the Switchgrass classroom, 208 S. Main. Lucas writer Lori Brack and Miltonvale artist Linda Foster will collaborate with visitors in thinking about what they hope for their towns, state, country, and world. Then, participants will write their messages on original postcards and select mayors, legislators, or other decision makers to receive their thoughts through the mail. An easy stroll to the post office for mailing will conclude the hour-long experience. Postage and postcards will be provided.

14 Artist Sites, Demonstrations, Open Houses:

Alan Vopat has created a lifetime of art available for viewing at his Da Da Muse'Um, 104 S. Main. Vopat will be on site after 1 p.m. His "chitsay doodles" are layers of words which eventually become figures, often with his face as a feature. The Muse'Um includes themes such as chicken nuggets, blueberries, the US Presidents, and the "21 Nun Salute" featuring faces of all the nuns from *The Sound of Music* wearing Vopat's nose. In 2015,

the Da Da Muse'Um was the original April 1 art studio opening that has grown into the city-wide April Fools-a-Palooza celebration.

Next door, Matthew Dominic Farley's Proving Ground sculpture garden, 106 S. Main, invites visitors to ramble the grounds around his Old Blue Studio, a former tractor shop. The workshop, not currently open to the public, accommodates materials, space, and tools for art-

making as well as for Farley's art conservation and preservation practice. The Proving Ground contains an evolving collection of artworks in various stages of development, including scale models for larger projects, temporary installations, and experimental designs.

Artist Rob Lindsay will open his Dew Dat Den Studio, 218 W. First, from 2-4 p.m. to demonstrate the printing process. Lindsay creates limited edition linocut artists prints. His studio, an art deco style former gas station, also features outdoor sculpture.

StandingDog Studio, 107 S. Main, will welcome visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The studio is the work space and gallery of LeAnne Doljac, who creates unique pieces in a variety of mediums with an emphasis on salvaged and recycled materials. The studio is filled with weird and wonderful torch-cut metals, ceramics, paintings, hand-dyed fabrics, and more. Fiber artist Jenny Allen, Leavenworth, will be guest artist.

Erika Nelson's Roadside Side-show Expo, 214 S. Main, will open for the season with self-tours from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Devoted to roadside vernacular architecture, the Expo is home to the World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things - original miniature replicas of roadside monuments from across the U.S. (like the ball of twine, giant animals, and more). Vending machines dispense souvenir stickers and buttons.

"ChewBaru," an art car by Rex Rosenberg, Great Bend, will be parked on Main Street for viewing during the day. The ChewBaru is a 1995 Subaru Legacy transformed by the addition of 200 pounds of dentures, toothpaste tubes, dental models and dental tools, along with hundreds of images from old dentistry training books.

The ChewBaru has been displayed in more than 75 art car events around the U.S. including Houston, Seattle, Baltimore, Louisville, Chattanooga, Tulsa, and Pensacola, and driven through 38 states. More in-

formation is available at [ChewBaru.com](http://ChewBaru.com).

The Lucas Post Office, 218 S. Main, will host Priority Mail, a tramp art-inspired cardboard sculpture by Matthew Farley installed in a post office box, open all day.

Across the street, the Grassroots Art Center, 213 S. Main, will be free to drop-in visitors from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The center offers three galleries and a post rock courtyard, all featuring the work of Kansas and regional artists who work with recycled and repurposed materials. Visitors will get a first look at "Intersecting Lines," a new exhibition of art by Helen Benson, Lenexa, on April 1, along with the opportunity to hear from Benson via video conference at 1:30 p.m.

Artist Barbara McCreery will welcome visitors to her studio at 132 S. Fairview from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. McCreery's sequin dioramas will be on view, and places to sit and rest in the garden will be available.

Artist and publisher Rita Sharp will feature a window display at Lucas Publishing Co., home of the weekly Lucas-Sylvan News, 203 S. Main.

Architectural Stone Fabrication will be open to visitors all day at 115 W. Second. Stonemason Jon Pancost will demonstrate and talk about his work in Kansas stone, time to be announced.

Lynn's Glass Works & Laser Engraving, 120 S Main, will be open 10am-5pm celebrating the USA's 250th anniversary. Fudge sweets, free stuff, and fun demos of various products will be featured throughout the day in the boutique offering personalized gifts of wood, leather, metal, and fabric.

Cookie Jar Quilting, 218 N. Harvest St. W, will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for visitors to Raymond Herold's business where he does longarm quilting, custom embroidery, and makes custom reusable mesh tote bags. Look for the sign on the street.

Roy and Clara Miller's stone sculpture Millers' Park, 305 E. Second, will be available for viewing all day across the alley from the Garden of Eden.