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Lincoln Fire holds annual awards banquet



Veteran members are pictured alongside the newest volunteers. Front row (L-R): Jason Lemieux, Brenton Glammeyer and Ida Steinborn. Back row (L-R): Colton Panzer, Greg Babcock, Jarrodd Heinze, Jeff Lyne and TJ Jonsson. (Courtesy Photo)

By Jyll Phillips, Lincoln-Sentinel
 The Lincoln Fire Department held their 9th annual awards banquet on Saturday, February 21. Scott Meier was recognized for 24 years with the fire department, as he retired last March. Dayton Walter was awarded Firefighter of the Year as a top responder. We appreciate his willingness to serve his community as a firefighter and show up to help in times of need.

The fire department also recognized the long-time commitment of several volunteer firefighters. Those currently serving, 30 years of firefighting include Loren Peterson; 25 years - Greg Babcock; 20 years - Jeff Lyne; 15 year - Jarrod Heinze; 10 years - Jamie Meyer, Paydon Stertz, Stephen Weber, TJ Jonsson and Colton Panzer; 5 years - Cole Zachgo, Austin Leben, Riggs Walter, Austin Biggs, and Brian O'Toole.

The City of Lincoln and First Rural Fire Districts together responded to 39 calls last year, which included 5 structure fires. Thankfully, there were none within the city limits in 2025. Other incidents included vehicle and combine fires, grass fires, wrecks, power lines down, false alarms, suspected gas leaks, and 21 rescue calls. In all these situations, it is very clear how important it is to have a full roster of volunteers who are available to

show up and are trained to do what needs to be done. Answering the call to service, Jason Lemieux, Brenton Glammeyer and Ida Steinborn joined the department over the past year as new firefighters. Lincoln Fire appreciates the USD 299 shop class for the metal cut-outs for years of service awards. The community thanks Lincoln Fire for keeping us safe.



Service award recipients are pictured with custom signs made by LHS Shop students. Front row: Cole Zachgo, Riggs Walter, Brian O'Toole and Austin Leben. Back row: TJ Jonsson, Colton Panzer, Greg Babcock, Jarrod Heinze, Jeff Lyne and Stephen Weber. (Courtesy Photo)



The Lincoln Fire Department held its 9th annual awards banquet on Saturday, February 21. Scott Meier was recognized for 24 years of service as he retired last March. Pictured (L-R): Colton Panzer, Greg Babcock, Scott Meier, Jarrod Heinze, Jeff Lyne and TJ Jonsson. (Courtesy Photo)

Blood Drive set for March 12

The Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive March 12 at Lincoln High School's storm shelter—concession stand at 701 E. North St. beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing through 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter code LincolnKSHS. Signed consent forms are required for those under 18. Prior to the donation, participants should eat well and be well hydrated for best results. As an added benefit, donors who give blood in March will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card by email. See rcblood.org/March.

JH Scholars blazing a trail



The Lincoln Junior High Scholars Bowl team had a strong week of competition, earning second and third place finishes at Ellsworth on February 23, another second-place finish at the PTL League Bowl on February 25, and first-place finishes for both the seventh- and eighth-grade teams at the Lincoln Invitational. Back row (L-R): Kaley Schneider, Sloan McReynolds-Baetz, Dane Bates, Ethan Wolting and Gavin Lopez. Front row (L-R): Olivia Borst, Layne Nelson, Conor Schneider and Lyle Hair. (Photo courtesy of USD 298)

Walter nominated for prestigious award



USD 298 recently announced the nomination of Mrs. Shaylyn Walter for the New Horizon Teacher Award. This nomination is submitted to the Kansas State Department of Education for innovative teachers in the first years of teaching who make an impact on our school community, bring creativity, enthusiasm and a deep commitment to student success.

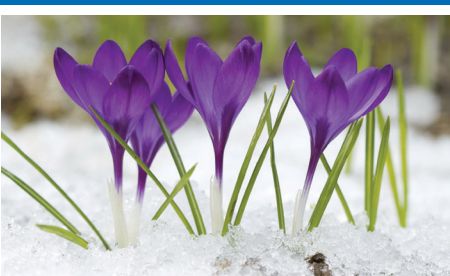
To be eligible the nominee will have successfully completed his or her first year of teaching in a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 Kansas school accredited by the Kansas State Board of Education; be a full-time teacher; be responsible for the assessment of students, assignment of grades, preparation of lesson plans, parent-teacher conferences, discipline, attendance and other daily educational tasks; have performed in a way that distinguishes him or her from other novice teachers; and be selected by the school district superintendent and building principal.

See "Walter" page 6

Of interest to veterans

March is Women's History Month and to help celebrate our female veterans remember March 21 as Rosie the Riveter Day. Rosie was a cultural icon of WWII, representing the women who worked outside the home during the war in factories and shipyards. Supporting our veterans often means stepping out of our comfort zones, which women like Rosie did everyday during a period in our society when a majority of women were stay-at-home-moms. Celebrate the families of our veterans and active service members as they keep the "home fires" burning during times of deployment. March dates to remember include March 3, which is the anniversary of the inception of the Navy Reserve. March 15 is the anniversary of the organization of the American Legion. March 25 is Congressional Medal of Honor Day. March 29 is the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The monthly meeting for the VFW Auxiliary is March 10; the VFW members meeting is March 11 and the American Legion members meeting is March 12.

March: The Weather Wildcard



March in Kansas is the ultimate "dress for all four seasons in one day" experience. Mornings may require gloves and a winter coat, while afternoons might have you rolling down the windows. As we ease toward spring, remember to keep the ice melt handy, a light jacket in the car, and maybe even a pair of sunglasses within reach. Around here, we don't predict the weather — we simply prepare for all of it.

Cash Grain

Corn.....	\$3.78
Milo.....	\$3.38
Soybeans.....	\$10.49
Wheat.....	\$5.14

Cash prices courtesy of Ag Mark

Community Calendar

Thursday, March 5

USD 299: HS BB Sub-State @ TBD; JH Scholar Bowl @ Natoma; Sociology Field Trip to ECF; 6:15pm Randi Volleyball Practice

Friday, March 6

USD 298: HS Boys BB Sub-State Finals @ Osborne; NO PRE-K - PBIS TRAINING
USD 299: HS BB Sub-State @ TBD

Saturday, March 7

USD 298: HS Girls BB Sub-State Finals @ Osborne
USD 299: HS BB Sub-State @ TBD

Sunday, March 8

Monday, March 9

USD 298: 6:30 PM JH LEOPARD STEM EXPO; 6 pm USD 298 BOARD MEETING @ LJSHS
USD 299: Dismiss @ 1 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences; 7pm Board of Ed Mtg

Tuesday, March 10

USD 298: PRE-ENROLLMENT - LJSHS COMMONS; YEC @ Sylvan
USD 299: FFA Trip to the Capital w/Farm Bureau; HS State BB @ TBD; YEC Competition @ Sylvan; 7pm 299 Foundation Meeting

Wednesday, March 11

USD 298: LES SPRING PICTURE DAY
USD 299: HS BB State @ TBD

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.



LHS Forensics medals in Natoma

The LHS Forensics team brought home medals from the Natoma meet. Congratulations to Dylan R - Extemp 2nd Place, State Qualifier; Tennyson Donley & Emily R - Duet 2nd Place; Nayalie Polly & Olivia D - Duet 3rd Place, State Qualifier; Chloe H - Humorous 3rd, State Qualifier; Nayalie Polly - Humorous 4th; Nayalie Polly & Olivia D - IDA 2nd, State Qualifiers! Congratulations to these students and their coach, Mrs. Brenda White. (Courtesy photo)



LES 4th grade fills Joy Jar!

The 4th grade enjoyed a pizza party for lunch today after filling their Joy Jar! Thank you, Mity M art, for making delicious pizza for us! (Courtesy photo)



5th graders attend Starbase

LES 5th graders attended Starbase in Salina on February 25 to get hands on learning about chemistry, robotics, and rockets. Starbase Salina is a Department of Defense STEM education program. The program, which serves 14 counties, was forced to halt operations in February due to federal funding cuts. According to the Salina Journal, the McPherson County Community Foundation and the Greater Salina Community Foundation each contributed \$25,000 to keep the highly acclaimed educational program in operation, citing the importance of STEM education and the program's impact on students. Kansas Starbase is hopeful that similar community support can be found to help fund the four other Starbase sites in the state that are also facing funding shortfalls. (Courtesy photo)

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2026
The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Ken Meitler and Member Leon Hart present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.
Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson, Mona Buttenhoff, Brandon Cochran, Tanya Paul, Dustin Florence, Sydney Goldberg, Brad Homman, Jesse Knight, and Kelly Gourley.
Correspondence: lease agreement for county-owned property; a gravel agreement; midmonth accounts payable; tax abatements; a letter from Michelle Hair expressing interest in continuing to serve on the Hospital Board of Trustees; a letter to NCK Regional Homeland Security Council approving board appointment.
Debora Smith moved to reappoint Jesse Knight as our representative to the North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatement 2026-10, 2026-11, and 2026-13 in the amount of \$349.80, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve midmonth accounts payable in the amount of \$53,705.39, seconded by

Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve the lease agreement between Lincoln County and Todd Haring to lease the tract of land in Section 34, Township 11, Range 8, Marion Township, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve the gravel removal purchase agreement with Darris Meitler, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried.
Commissioner Smith provided information received via a KORA request regarding pay and reimbursement to members of the Hospital Board of Trustees for meetings, committee meetings, and signing checks.
Administrators' report: provided bridge grant applications and estimated costs of each project for replacement of OS 67 and RS 570; provided a map for the ten motor grader routes, noting that he had asked AI to produce mapping options to reduce the number of motor grader routes; updated on Transportation Bus maintenance and repairs completed; will need to measure the feet of guttering needing to be replaced at the nursing home; requested that nursing home administrator Diane Walters obtain additional bids for moving the facility thermostats; and he spoke with Tony Lamia and they will continue to operate the recycling center until the county does something different.

Health Nurse/Administrator Mona Buttenhoff provided information on the Governor's Public Health Conference, noting that a scholarship is available to cover one registration, and inquired whether the board approved Buttenhoff's attendance at the conference and declined to close the department to allow all employees to attend.
Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran provided pricing for the power lift and autoloading system for the two Lincoln ambulances. The board will consider funding a portion of one unit and suggested that Cochran apply for grant funding for the other unit. Cochran provided an updated roster and discussed availability with all contacted part-time per-need staff. The board approved Cochran to apply for the Post Rock Community Foundation grant and the Dane Hansen Foundation for the power lift and autoloading systems.
Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm requested an executive session to discuss applicants for multiple positions. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for twenty minutes for the purpose of discussing open positions within the county, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel to reconvene in the courthouse commission See "COMMISSION" page 6



Monday, March 9

Cheesy Beef Macaroni Casserole, Italian Blend Veggies, Cinnamon Baked Apples, Roll & Milk

Tuesday, March 10

Chicken Pot Pie, Roasted Veggie, Mandarin Oranges, Roll & Milk

Wednesday, March 11

Pulled Pork w/Bun, Blsck Benas, Corn, Fruit Cobbler & Milk

Thursday, March 12

Taco w/Shells, Luttuce & Cheese, Refried Beans, Fruit & Milk

Friday, March 13

Oven Fried Fish, Hashbrown Casserole, Mixed Vegetables, Tropical Fruit, 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.*

Ladies Spring Banquet
Sponsored by
Beverly Community Church
Friday, March 13, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Beverly Community Church,
Beverly
Speaker: Carol Tolbert
Theme: "How Long O Lord"
What to Bring:
Salad and a friend

Have a great week!

Contact Information: Lincoln Sentinel-Republican

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

OBITUARY

Steven Louis Meyer May 3, 1959- Feb. 27, 2026

Steven Louis Meyer, 66, was called home on February 27, 2026. He was born on May 3, 1959 in Lincoln, KS to Roy and Barbara (Marts) Meyer, who preceded him in death.

Steve had a lifelong love for the outdoors. He found great joy in fishing, hunting, and spending time with friends and family, especially his grandchildren.

Steve is survived by his three children: Charlie (Amber) Meyer of

Beloit; Mitch (Kimberly) Meyer of Lincoln; and Rachel (Derrick) Aufdemberge of Lincoln; and their mother, Deb Meyer of Lincoln. He was a very proud grandfather to seven grandchildren: Carter, Emery, Bowen, Daxton, Abram, Rhett, and Quinn, who were the light of his life and brought him tremendous happiness and countless smiles. He is also survived by his brothers, David Meyer of Goodland and Eric Meyer of Salina. The family is especially grateful for his long-term friend, Marci, whose love and devoted care brought

comfort and strength to Steve.

Funeral services will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Lincoln on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., with burial to follow at St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Steve will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew and loved him. His family finds peace in the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

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



Wanda Lee Geering
Sept. 18, 1932

Wanda Lee Geering was born on September 18, 1932 to Alma Irene Sheppard Geering and Claude A. Geering at Ash Grove, Kansas. She graduated from Lincoln High

School at Lincoln, Kansas in 1950 and attended KSU for two years. On April 9, 1950 she was united in marriage to Richard Louis Jepsen. They were married for 60 years when he passed away in 2010.

She was a life member and past president of Pearce Keller American Legion Auxiliary Unit #17. She was past president of the following organizations: the 30th Infantry Division, Riley County Republican Women, and KSU Bowling Team. She worked at the Riley County District Court Annex as a clerk and was past president of Legal Secretaries-LAMS. She was a member of NARFE as well as a Jr. Girl Scout Leader.

She loved her family most of all but also loved to read, play bridge, bowl, crochet, yard work and cooking, especially candy and Christmas dinners for her family.

She is survived by her four children; Carol (Mike) Brown of Centerville, VA; Robert (Sharon) Jepsen of Warrenton, MO; Myrna

(Terry) Giess of Drummond, MT; Randy (Roxanne) Jepsen of Dallas, TX. Nine grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, her parents, one infant brother, three infant sisters, one adult brother Vernon Geering, a brother-in-law Paul Eaken and one adult sister Peggy Eaken.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #17, the KSU Johnson Cancer Research Center, or the Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2026, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Irvin Parkview Funeral Home. Funeral services will take place on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., also at the funeral home. Burial will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery. A luncheon will be held at the American Legion following the burial.

A Look Back at 1996 Championship Glory



Members of the 1995-96 Sylvan-Lucas State Championship Basketball Team were honored during Saturday's Sub-State game on February 28. Pictured (L-R): Warren Meitler, Darris Meitler, Aaron Cheney, Clint Meitler, Ben Labertew and assistant coach Scott Reeves. The team was led by head coach Jude Stecklein. (Courtesy Photo)

Mustangs bring home another state championship



STATE CHAMPIONS - The Sylvan Unified Mustangs enjoy the fruits of a state championship as they stand center court Saturday afternoon to receive the Championship trophy, medals and cheers of the crowd. Pictured are (back row, 1 to r) Assistant Coach Scott Reeves, Anthony Dail, Darris Meitler, Ben Labertew, Clint Meitler, Aaron Cheney, John Wiese, Curtis Keller, Coach Jude Stecklein. (Front, 1 to r) Jason Cheney, Lyle Dohl, Travis True, Justin Keller, Warren Meitler.

This original Lucas-Sylvan News clipping from March 14, 1996, captured the excitement of the State Championship run. (Clipping courtesy of Sandy Labertew)

The Radish Patch reopens

Hurrah! The winter blahs are over. Spring fever is here. It's time for the Radish Patch to open for all of our gardeners.

Sad to say, however, the peak season for snow peas and iceberg lettuce has passed, but we can get the other good food into the ground so we can enjoy it soonest.

We hope all the gardeners from last year return and that we have many new people who want to have the pleasure of growing your own food.

First time gardeners are always welcomed and technical help is available. If you've never tried gardening but think you should, come have a happy time in the dirt.

Early in March we will have a meeting with all the gardeners and pass out information for this year and assign spaces.

Call Jim Gabelmann at 785-658-7198 to reserve your space or get more information.



- 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 Demerle 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
- LINCOLN PARK MANOR CHAPEL**
Morning Worship @ 9:30 am
Afternoon Worship @ 2:30 pm
- LINCOLN UNITED METHODIST**
Worship Service @ 10:30 am
Alternate Pastor & Lay Leaders provide Communion
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Sylvan Grove, Kansas
Sunday School @ 10:00 am
Church @ 11:00 am
- ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Pastor Don Haselhuhn
Lincoln, Kansas
Two and one-half miles south of Lincoln on Highway 14
Sunday/Bible School...9:30 am
Worship Service.....10:30 am
- ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Father Mark Wesely, Lincoln
Rectory phone: 785-524-4823
Email: stpat327@gmail.com
Sunday Mass @ 11:00 am
Sunday CCD Classes @ 9:45 am
Weekday Mass: Mondays - 3:30 pm
- ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS**
Pastor Don Haselhuhn
Six and one-half miles south and 4 miles east of Lincoln
Worship Service @ 9:00 am
- ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**
Pastor Rod Thompson, Tescott
Worship Service @ 9:00 am
- TESCOTT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor Demerle Eckart
Sunday School @ 10:00 am
Worship @ 11:00 am
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HUNTER**
Pastor Matthew Schneider
Hunter, Kansas
Sunday School @ 9:00 am
Worship Service @ 10:00 am
Midweek/Confirmation
Wednesdays @ 4:30 to 5:45

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.

Student Achievements

University of Kansas
2025 Honor Roll

More than 5,600 students from Kansas were named to the University of Kansas fall 2025 honor roll.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and in the schools of Architecture & Design, Business, Education & Human Sciences, Engineering, Health Professions, Journalism & Mass Communications, Music, Nursing, Pharmacy, Professional Studies and Social Welfare.

Jaden Huehl, Sylvan Grove, School of Education & Human Sciences and School of Journalism & Mass Communications

Kaylee Johnson, Sylvan Grove, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Guest Editorial

Protecting Farmers and our Food Supply Starts in Kansas

Kansas is often brushed off as a "flyover state." However, that label misses what really defines us. Look out the window anywhere across our great state, and you'll see farms, rolling hills, and sunflower fields stretching as far as the eye can see. As the nation's leading wheat producer, our farmers sit at the heart of America's breadbasket, helpings apply a significant share of the almost one billion bushels of wheat Americans rely on each year.

That doesn't happen by accident. As a farmer myself, I've seen firsthand the long hours and careful decisions it takes for family farmers to grow the crops that turn into affordable, everyday staples for American families. I also know how important American-made crop protection tools are to making those harvests possible, year after year. But right now, those tools—and the farmers who depend on them—are at risk.

Special interest groups are trying to force proven crop protection tools off the market through meritless lawsuits disguised as public service. In reality, these groups only care about profits, not protection. The people behind these efforts don't understand modern farming or what it takes to manage a crop from planting to harvest—much less what it means to carry on a farming legacy built over generations. They don't see the planning, the risk, or the consequences—they just see a chance to make money.

If lawmakers don't step in and close the legal loopholes being exploited, American manufacturers will be forced to stop producing these products altogether,

See "GUEST" page 6

THE LEOPARD LEGACY- BY NIKKI FLINN

The Power and Promise of Vocational Education



Nikki Flinn
Superintendent
USD 298

Vocational and technical education play a critical role in strengthening our workforce, supporting local economies, and giving students meaningful, affordable opportunities to build successful careers.

At USD 298, we believe in providing options. Through partnerships with multiple colleges and technical schools across Kansas, our students have access to dual credit courses that allow them to begin their college journey while still in high school. This includes our four-year college-bound students, who can complete general education coursework at a significantly lower cost. By taking dual credit classes, students save money through reduced tuition rates, shorten their time in college, and often save substantially on room and board expenses. Many of our graduates leave Lincoln High School with 15 to 24 college credits already completed. A head start that provides both financial relief and academic momentum.

But higher education is not one-size-

fits-all, and that is where vocational and technical education become essential. Our partnership with Salina Area Technical College has opened doors for students interested in hands on, high-demand career fields. Through this collaboration, our juniors and seniors can enroll in dual credit programs in welding, automotive technology, and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Students attend vocational classes for half of the school day during their junior and senior years, splitting time between Lincoln High School and the L Tech Center (USD 298's vocational school located in the industrial park). By the time they graduate from high school, they can also complete their technical program, earning the same industry recognized certifications as traditional postsecondary students.

The impact is profound. These students can enter the workforce immediately after graduation, equipped with marketable skills and credentials. They do so at a fraction of the cost they would incur if they waited until after high school to begin training. In many cases, they step directly into careers that are in high demand across our state and nation.

Looking ahead, USD 298 has ambitious goals for expanding the L Tech Center to include additional career pathways such as Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), electrical trades, and Commercial Driver's

License (CDL) certification. These fields represent real workforce needs and strong earning potential for our students. Expanding these programs, however, brings challenges, including the need for additional classroom and shop space, recruiting qualified instructors through Salina Tech, and addressing the financial investments required to support growth with additional facilities and space.

Despite these hurdles, USD 298 remains committed to navigating these challenges thoughtfully and strategically. We understand that vocational education is not just about individual opportunity; it is about community sustainability. The L Tech Center serves not only Lincoln students, but also surrounding districts. Expanding access to these programs strengthens our regional workforce, supports local industries, and helps young people build careers without leaving their communities.

Education should open doors - all kinds of doors. Whether a student chooses a four-year university, a technical certification, or both, our responsibility is to provide the pathways. Vocational education is not a second choice. It is a powerful, practical, and respected route to success. And at USD 298, we are proud to be leading the way in making those opportunities possible for our students and we are just getting started.

POST ROCK EXTENSION DISTRICT

The Importance of Colostrum

By Blaire Todd
K-State Research and Extension
Post Rock Livestock Production
Agent

At the beginning of every calving season, we find ourselves discussing the importance of colostrum (first milk) in cow-calf herds. We discuss this topic so often; it makes one wonder if we shouldn't move on to other topics? The short answer to that question is NO because of the great importance of this single dietary ingredient to calf health and growth. The bovine species is special and almost perfect in every way except the design of the placenta. Unfortunately, because of the way the placenta is structured, the dam cannot transfer any of her antibodies to the calf. Therefore, the calf is completely devoid of any antibody protection against infections at the time of birth. To overcome the inability to pass antibodies to the calf before birth, the bovine dam secretes large amounts of antibodies into her colostrum. Colostrum contains ten times more IgG1 (one of the major antibodies) compared to milk produced during the rest of lactation. If the calf rises and suckles within the first few hours after birth, it will absorb antibodies from the colostrum. Protection will be immediate upon absorption. If the calf does not nurse and absorb these antibodies,

then a very important part of their ability to fight infections will be absent for several weeks.

Several factors are involved to ensure colostrum antibody protection. The length of time from birth to consuming colostrum is very important. Immediately after birth, the calf's digestive system begins to lose its ability to absorb colostrum antibodies. At six hours after birth, only about 60% of the colostrum antibodies consumed will be absorbed into the calf's system, and by 24 hours, virtually none will be absorbed. It is very important that each calf receives colostrum as soon as possible after birth to maximize antibody absorption. Colostrum quantity is also important. The level of antibody protection provided by colostrum is dependent on the total amount of antibodies consumed by the calf. This amount depends on the amount of colostrum produced and consumed. Colostrum quantity is largely dependent on the dam's age and her pre-calving nutritional status. Colostrum quality is the third component of a successful colostrum management program. The term quality refers to the number of diseases represented by colostrum antibodies. The antibodies are disease-specific. For example, antibodies that target E. coli infections will not be the same antibodies that target Rotavirus infections. The range of disease-

specific antibodies produced by the dam depends on the diseases she has been exposed to in her lifetime and the number of diseases she has been vaccinated against. A well-designed vaccination program can greatly improve colostrum quality.

The importance of colostrum in neonatal calves goes beyond antibody protection. Compared to milk, colostrum concentration of fat and protein is two to four times greater. The concentration of the major vitamins, including A, B, D, and E, is also much higher in colostrum compared to milk. In addition to these nutrients, colostrum contains several enzymes that possess antimicrobial properties. These nutrients and enzymes are extremely important to the calf's ability to survive and grow during early life. For most herds, there will be times when a calf is unable to rise and nurse as quickly as needed. Typical cases include a calf that has experienced dystocia and is tired or hurt, or is born to a dam with poor mothering ability, or born to a dam that doesn't produce enough colostrum. In these cases, what are the best ways to manage the colostrum program?

When the calf is injured or the dam's mothering ability is lacking, hand-milking the dam and collecting colostrum is the best intervention. This should only be attempted if it can be accomplished in See "Post" page 6

Farmers & Ranchers Livestock Commission Co.

Total for the Week - Cattle - 3949 Hogs - 28
Bulls- \$230 - \$248 Cows - \$173 - \$182
Sows - \$70 - \$73 Fats- \$83 - \$95

Strs	Hfrs
300-400 \$620.00-630.00	300-400 \$560.00-570.00
400-500 \$610.00-615.00	400-500 \$520.00-532.00
500-600 \$550.00-570.00	500-600 \$491.00-512.50
600-700 \$475.00-491.00	600-700 \$410.00-432.00
700-800 \$400.00-413.00	700-800 \$350.00-363.00
800-900 \$360.00-371.00	800-900 \$337.00-358.00
900-1000 \$330.00-346.00	900-1000 NO TEST

Time To Get Your Horses Consigned!!
CATALOG CLOSES THIS WEEK
Spring Classic Horse Sale.
Saturday, May 16, 2026.

Early Consignments for Thursday March 5th
Sale: 10 a.m. 45 char s&h, 500, home raise, wean 90 days, vacc; 50 blk s&h, 500, off cow; 13 s&h, 400-525, wean, vacc; 55 str, 850-950, home raise, long wean, off wheat; 50 hfrs, 825-900, long wean, off wheat, open; 60 blk str, 800-900, wean 90 days, 2 round vacc; 25 blk s&h, 900-1000, home raise, long wean, Swanson sire; 26 char/angus str, 550, home raise, wean, vacc; 42 str, 800-900, home raise, long wean, 2 round vacc; 65 hfrs, 750-800, no sort; 110 mostly blk s&h, 400-800, long wean, 2 round fall vacc; hfrs - no implants; plus many more by sale time.

Special Cow Sale
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Starting at 11am.

Replacement Heifers: 15 blk hfrs, home raise, OCHV'd, pelvic checked; 21 blk hfrs, 750-800, long wean; plus more by sale time.

Cows/Cow Pairs: 117 blk cows, solid to broken, bred wf or angus bulls, calve April; 120 blk 3-5 years, bred Valley View char bulls, calve April 10 for 60 days; 120 blk/red cows, 3-5 years, fall bred, bred blk Harms Farms bulls; 30 older cows, bred blk; plus more by sale time.

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PRAIRIE DOC BY PATTI BERG-POPPE, MPT, Ph.D. AND SHANA CERNY, OTD, OTR/L, BCP

Cultivating Trust: A Trauma-Informed Approach to the Therapeutic Alliance

Health care professionals enter every patient encounter with the goal of helping individuals heal, yet many don't realize how often past adversity shapes the way a person experiences care. Trauma, whether from childhood experiences, medical procedures, accidents, interpersonal harm or environmental conditions, doesn't remain a distant memory. It becomes embedded in the body through biobehavioral adaptations that influence posture, muscle tension, breathing patterns, nervous system sensitivity and low body safety. When we understand that trauma lives not only in stories but also in tissues and reflexes, we begin to see why a trauma-informed approach is essential for building trust.

Trauma and adverse experiences are more common than we may realize. More than two-thirds of the patients that health care providers encounter in practice are likely to have experienced trauma in some form. Trauma-in-

formed care should be a universal precaution, guiding providers to assume that any patient may have a history of adversity, even if it is never disclosed. This mindset shifts the focus from "What's wrong with you?" to "What's happened to you, and how is it affecting your health today?" For clinicians who rely on touch, such as physical and occupational therapists, physicians, nurses and primary care professionals, this awareness is especially important. Touch can be grounding and healing, but it can also activate the sympathetic nervous system, triggering a stress response before a patient has words to explain why.

Trust becomes the foundation of the therapeutic alliance, and trust is built through safety, predictability and respect. Trauma-informed practice encourages providers to slow down, explain what they are doing and invite patients into shared decision-making. Simple actions, such as asking permission before touching,

checking in about comfort, offering choices and being transparent about what comes next, signal to the nervous system that the environment is safe. These small shifts can reduce physiological stress responses and create space for true healing.

Research on trauma-informed health care highlights how past adversity can influence patient engagement, adherence and outcomes. When patients feel overwhelmed, misunderstood or rushed, they may appear "non-compliant," when in reality their nervous system is doing its best to protect them. A trauma-informed lens helps clinicians interpret these reactions not as resistance but as communication. It encourages us to look beyond the symptom in front of us and consider the whole person, including their history, their stress load, their strengths and their goals.

Holistic care means recognizing that physical symptoms rarely exist in isola- See "Doc" page 5

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(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, March 4, 2026)
The Lincoln Housing Authority will hold a public hearing on April 10, 2026, at 10:00 am at **107 E Court Street, Lincoln, KS 67455** on the 3rd floor community room. To receive comments regarding its Public Housing Agency Plan certification and Capital Fund Program 5 -Year Action Plan. The plans are available for review at the Lincoln Housing Authority office, Monday through Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am- 12:00 pm. All residents and members of the public are invited to attend and provide comments.

Legal Notice
(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, March 4, 2026)
Results of the Market Study Analysis for Lincoln County for The Assessment Year 2026 January 1, 2026
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"A study of the residential real estate market for older houses, i.e. built before 1945, indicated that there is an overall inflationary trend of 6% from 2025.
"A study of the residential real estate market for newer houses, i.e. built after 1945, indicated that there is an overall inflationary trend of 4% from 2025.
"A study of the commercial real estate market indicated there is an overall inflationary trend of 5% from 2025.
"A study of the real estate market for vacant lots indicated there is a stable market with no overall upward or downward trend.
Increase in the value of residences and commercial occur due to buying pressure in the market regardless of whether change has occurred in the property itself. In addition, the value on a specific property may not follow the general market trend due to location or other factors. Changes in buyer demands as to age, style or condition and corrections to descriptive information about the property itself, or adjustments based on specific sales of comparable properties may affect each property differently.

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Commission/*from page 2*

meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 9:43 a.m. Time out: 10:03 a.m.

The chairman convened the meeting to regular session at 10:03 a.m. with no action taken.

Tanya Paul, DVACK, discussed the failed legislation, Erin's Law, which would have incorporated a required curriculum into schools to provide age-appropriate child sexual abuse prevention education. Paul read a proclamation for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to proclaim February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried.

Sheriff Dustin Florence, along with representatives from Goldberg Group Architects, Sydney Goldberg, and Brad Homman, discussed the proposed law enforcement center. Goldberg inquired about the courthouse project so that information could be presented at an up-

coming committee meeting. After discussion, it was determined that Administrator Robertson will address questions on the courthouse project if a representative from TreanorHL is not present. A sales tax project meeting to discuss the law enforcement center and courthouse projects was scheduled for March 11, 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse courtroom.

Administrator Robertson related that Jessica Kobbeman, Scoulers, will markup the lease agreement provided by the county, noting that they would like consideration of a twenty-year lease and modification to key language. The board discussed whether it would be more feasible to list the property for sale, or whether there would be an economic benefit to consider giving the property to the company to develop. Economic Development Director Kelly Gourley related that an organization could conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the proposed use of the

property would garner an economic benefit. The board agreed to complete a cost benefit analysis and to forward the proposed changes to County Attorney Wright for comment. Robertson related that an individual had inquired why Lincoln County was not charging a transient guest tax. The group discussed what uses the tax generated funds could be used for. The board agreed to consider adding a transient guest tax.

Debora Smith moved to remove Dale Hlad and Elizabeth Sheldon from the local emergency planning commission and appoint Mona Butenhoff as the health department representative, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve the February 9 meeting, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. Monday, February 23, 2026.

Post/*from page 4*

a facility that provides safety to both humans and the dam. Never use dairy colostrum or colostrum from neighboring cow-calf operations. There are several diseases, including John's disease and bovine leukosis, that may not be on your operation and can be passed to the calf through the colostrum. The second-best intervention would be to administer a commercial powdered-colostrum replacer. Do not use colostrum supplements as they do not contain the appropriate concentration of antibodies for protection. It is also best to choose a colostrum replacer made from bovine colostrum, not bovine plasma. Research has shown that absorption is higher in colostrum-based replacers. It is also important that electrolytes or probiotics NOT be mixed with colostrum or colostrum replacers. Research is clear that

these products interfere with the digestion and absorption of colostrum and replacer. Does the feeding method impact colostrum absorption? It is always best to use a nipple bottle. When the calf nurses, colostrum bypasses the rumen and reaches the intestinal tract, where absorption occurs much faster. Research indicates that by-passing the rumen is more important if feeding 1 quart or less of colostrum/replacer. An 80-pound calf needs about 2 quarts of colostrum, and most commercial replacers are formulated to be fed in 2-quart amounts to calves of all sizes. In these cases, using an esophageal feeder is certainly acceptable.

Colostrum is one of the most important components of any calf-health program, not only because of its antibodies but also because of the many other nutrients it provides. Co-

lostrum quantity and quality, as well as timing from birth to consumption, are important aspects of any colostrum management program. Thanks to Gregg Hanzlicek, Kansas State Veterinarian, for sharing information related to the importance of colostrum. For further information, contact me at any Post Rock Extension District Offices 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. Blaire may be contacted at blairet@ksu.edu or by calling Beloit 738-3597, Smith Center, 282-6823, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato 378-3174, or Osborne 346-2521. Join us on Facebook at "Post Rock Extension" and remember our website is www.postrock.ksu.edu.

Guest/*from page 4*

leaving our farmers without a viable alternative or further driving our reliance on foreign adversaries.

Without access to these tools, many crops won't make it to harvest. Weeds and pests will take over, leaving farmers with little or nothing to sell, and no reliable way to support their families. That reality comes on top of already razor-thin margins, and unpredictable commodities markets.

For many farmers, taking American-made crop protection tools off the table wouldn't just make things harder—it would push them past the breaking point. And at a time when family farm bankruptcies are already rising nationwide, that risk is especially

real in Kansas, where nearly 95% of farms are family-owned.

But this doesn't just affect farmers, it affects consumers, too. Poor harvests mean higher prices at the grocery store for basics like bread, flour, cereal, and other typically affordable staples millions of Americans rely on.

There's also a national security risk we can't ignore. If American-made crop protection tools disappear, our farmers will be forced to turn to China as the only remaining supplier. That's not a position we should be putting ourselves in. As a state senator, I can't accept a future where a foreign nation has leverage over our food supply.

The time to act is now. The House has already passed HB

2476, and now it's up to the Senate to do its part to get this legislation over the finish line. Every year, we trust our farmers to grow the crops that feed America and power Kansas' economy. Now they're trusting us to have their backs.

This bill is a common-sense fix. It simply confirms an assumption our farmers have long operated under: that EPA-approved pesticide regulations meet Kansas' standards, too.

Our farmers know their land, their crops, and the tools they need to succeed. It's up to us to make sure they can keep using high-quality, American-made crop protection tools, and keep Kansas at the heart of America's breadbasket.

KDHE Announces First Rural Health Transformation Program Grant Opportunities for Kansas Providers, Organizations

TOPEKA — The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) posted Request for Applications (RFA) for its first two grant opportunities under the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) in Kansas. The application period for the Regional Partnership (RPGP) and the Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) Conversion/Transformative Capital Investment (CAP) grant programs opened Monday to eligible Kansas providers and organizations pursuing collaborative arrangements with one or more eligible Kansas providers.

Eligible providers include Kansas hospitals, physician practices, solo practitioners, rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, local health departments, Native American Sovereign Tribal health care facilities, certified community behavioral health clinics, licensed substance-use disorder facilities, and licensed long-term care facilities located in rural areas.

"We are excited to kick off the RHTP with these grant opportunities to begin the process of fundamentally transforming the rural health care landscape in Kansas," KDHE Secretary Janet Stanek said. "The level of funding we are receiving over the next five years through RHTP is historic for our state and provides the means necessary to expand access to health care throughout our rural communities, reaching the most vulnerable Kansans."

The \$44 million RPGP grant enables eligible providers to participate in collaborative arrangements that promote preventive health care and address the root causes of disease, enhance rural providers' efficiency and sustainability, attract and retain a highly-skilled health care workforce, spark growth of value-based care models, and foster the use of innovative technologies. Applications for the RPGP grant are due April 3, 2026.

The REH/CAP grant will provide facil-

ities that have been converted or are in the process of converting to REH status with \$15 million in available funds to make necessary facility renovations and provide other eligible providers with funds to make capital investments to transform how they serve their communities. Applications for the REH/CAP grant are due March 20, 2026.

Detailed submission and restriction information, along with the official RFAs for the grants, have been posted on the Kansas RHTP website. KDHE will host a webinar for interested parties on March 6, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Registration is required for this webinar, and can be accessed HERE.

Kansas received final notice of approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Kansas' annual \$221.89 million budget to implement its RHTP on Feb. 17, 2026. This approval allows KDHE to access the federal funds to launch the Plan's five initiatives.

The RHTP is a national \$50 billion commitment to improve the health and well-being of rural communities across the country. KDHE's implementation of its RHTP initiatives will pursue an approach that is both expeditious and effective, directing targeted resources to high-need areas throughout the state, with a focus on sustaining critical, high-quality health care access and services for rural Kansans.

To support successful implementation, KDHE has partnered with the University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative Association (CCA) to provide grant assistance and to administer several programs. CCA was instrumental in assisting Kansas with the development of its successful application for the RHTP funding, securing the sixth largest award.

KDHE also looks forward to working with the Kansas Grantmakers in Health and other Kansas-based organizations

to transform health care delivery for rural communities across the state. KDHE will continue to engage with the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA) to ensure funds are invested to expand access to care and improve health outcomes for rural Kansans.

The five Kansas RHTP initiatives were designed to improve the health and sustainability of rural communities statewide. The initiatives include:

Improving rural Kansas' health outcomes and transforming the delivery system by implementing and sustaining initiatives that promote preventative health care and address root causes of diseases,

Enhancing rural health care providers' efficiency and sustainability,

Attracting and retaining a highly-skilled health care workforce,

Sparking growth of innovative care models in rural communities that improve quality of care while reducing costs, and,

Fostering the use of innovative technologies to increase access to care for rural Kansans.

KRHIA hosted its virtual meeting on Friday, Feb. 27, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was livestreamed on the KDHE YouTube Page: <https://youtube.com/live/51RvieveWCpU?feature=share>.

To learn more about KDHE's commitment to protecting and improving the health and environment of all Kansans through the RHTP visit: Rural Health Transformation Program | KDHE, KS.

This press release is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$221,890,000 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau - opinion

Celebrating FFA Week

Jackie Mundt

Pratt County farmer and rancher

Every year since 1948, FFA members, agriculture teachers, alumni and supporters have come together to celebrate National FFA Week. The tradition is held during the week of Feb. 22, in honor of George Washington's birthday — a fitting tribute to a leader who valued agriculture and innovation.

For many local chapters, FFA Week carries the same excitement as homecoming. There are dress-up days, special events like donkey basketball or Drive Your Tractor to School Day, and plenty of friendly competition. More than 20 years later, I still smile when I think about organizing "FFA Olympics," visiting elementary classrooms in my blue corduroy jacket and the countless hours we poured into making the week memorable at my high school.

For state and national officers, however, FFA Week looks a little different. Their schedules are typically packed with chapter visits, media interviews, workshops and trips to state capitols or meetings with supporters. During my year as a national officer, most of my teammates were dispatched across the country with back-to-back appearances, inspiring members and celebrating alongside local chapters.

One teammate, Emily, and I had a very different experience.

We began the week helping with an appreciation breakfast for National FFA staff hosted by local chapters. Then we flew to Washington, D.C., for legislative and agency visits to promote FFA. What we didn't anticipate was a snowstorm — every single night.

Each day, we navigated nearly a foot of fresh snow in high heels, making our way to meetings on Capitol Hill and at federal agencies. The snow didn't stop business hours, so we were still able to meet with staff and share FFA's story. But once evening arrived, the city shut down. Instead of attending chapter banquets or community events, we found ourselves ordering pizza from the same delivery place each night. While our teammates were spending 16-hour days energizing FFA members across the country, Emily and I were curled up in our hotel room voting for Carrie Underwood on "American Idol." It wasn't the FFA Week we expected — but it was certainly one we'll never forget.

In recent years, social media has added a new dimension to FFA Week. Alumni and supporters update profile photos with pictures from their own FFA days, sharing how the organization shaped their leadership, confidence and career skills. A few years ago, Give FFA Day was established on the Thursday of FFA Week, providing a focused opportunity to give back.

That spirit of generosity is part of why I said yes when asked to join the Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Directors last year. My own FFA experience — and the impact I continue to see in students across our communities — made it an easy decision. What I've witnessed in my short time on the board has exceeded expectations. Dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly to elevate opportunities for students and support agriculture teachers in meaningful ways.

This year's Give FFA Day momentum was impossible to miss. Media partnerships, coordinated social media campaigns and a live event at headquarters helped build excitement around Kansas's goal of raising \$50,000. The response was extraordinary.

By the end of the day, more than \$106,000 had been raised, with donations coming from all 50 states and every one of Kansas' 105 counties. The outpouring of support demonstrated just how deeply FFA resonates — not only with current members but with generations who understand its lasting influence.

FFA Week is about celebration, yes. But it is also about investment — in students, in teachers and in the future of agriculture. Watching that support materialize in such a tangible way was both humbling and inspiring.

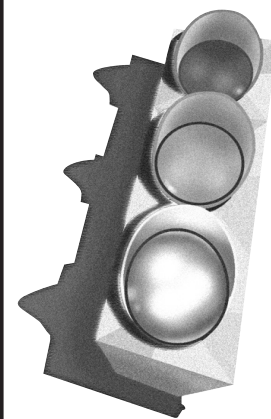
For me, FFA Week will always carry memories of blue jackets, spirited competitions and even a snowy Washington, D.C., adventure. More importantly, it represents a community committed to developing the next generation of agricultural and community leaders — and that is something worth celebrating every year.

"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.

Walter/*from page 1*

The Kansas Horizon Award Program is a regional competition following the state's four congressional districts. A regional selection committee will be appointed by KSDE. The committee will select up to four elementary teachers and four secondary classroom teachers per region for a possible total of 32 teachers. The teachers selected will be individually recognized during a luncheon at the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network (KEEN) conference and invited to participate as special guests in the two-day KEEN conference.

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Sylvan-Lucas Teams Compete in Sub-State Play

The Sylvan-Lucas basketball teams continued postseason action with strong efforts in Sub-State competition.

The Lady Mustangs opened tournament play with a decisive 51-26 victory over Hill City on Tuesday, February 24, advancing to the Sub-State semifinals. They were scheduled to face Rock Hills on Monday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m. at Rock Hills. As this edition went to print prior to the semifinal matchup, readers are encouraged to follow Sylvan-Lucas Schools on Facebook for updates and results.

The Mustang boys also found success in early tournament play. On Monday, February 23, Sylvan-Lucas defeated Stockton 67-39, followed by a hard-fought 52-44 win over Decatur on February 28 to earn a spot in the Sub-State finals. The Mustangs are set to take on Central Plains in Osborne, with game time to be determined.

For the latest information and game updates, follow Sylvan-Lucas Schools on Facebook.



Carter Johnson (10)
Vance Dohl (13)



Molly Heller (21)



LeeAllie Wacker (11)



Braden Nelson (5)

Tescott Girls Advance to Semifinals; Boys Conclude Season

The Tescott girls basketball team opened postseason play with a 39-34 victory over Thunder Ridge on Tuesday, February 24. With the win, they advance to the Sub-State semifinals and will face Linn High School on Monday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m. at Linn.

As this edition goes to print prior to the semifinal matchup, be sure to follow Tescott Schools on Facebook for game updates and results.

The Tescott boys earned a first-round bye as the No. 3 seed but fell to Blue Valley Randolph on Saturday, February 28, by a score of 64-46, concluding their season.

Sylvan-Lucas & Tescott Photos
by Lori Spear

Lincoln Photos
by Becky Rathbun



Charlie Phelps (44)



Jaleigh Trow (2)



Alyssa Lopez (3)



Jeremiah Miller (2) Jordan Meyer (12)

Lincoln Teams Wrap Up Tournament Play

The Lady Lincoln Leopards saw their season come to an end in the first round of tournament play with a 36-28 loss to Victoria.

The Lincoln boys team opened postseason competition with an impressive 72-46 victory over Osborne, advancing to the next round. The Leopards then traveled to Quinter on Saturday, February 28, where they fell to Quinter High School by a score of 51-34.

With the conclusion of tournament play, both Lincoln basketball teams have wrapped up their seasons.



Ben Bell (20)

LINCOLN - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE - CINDY ENTRIKEN

Present

I was excited when, a few years ago, Phil Wilkerson offered to drive me out to the county Poor Farm to visit the Poor Farm cemetery. I hadn't known that either existed. But before I tell you about the Lincoln County Poor Farm, let me tell you about my family's brush with the Osborne County poor farm.

Past

As a kid I heard my mother talk about "the poor farm." She expressed fear that she would be sent to one when she was a child, but I never understood that fear. Then a few years ago my cousin, Jim, who bought our grandmother's home in Lincoln, sent me a large box of old papers that he'd found.

My mom spent the first 10 years of her life living at the Farrington (my maternal grandfather) farm in Osborne County, Kansas. Great grandpa Emory Farrington lost his money when the stock market crashed in 1929. Around 1930 he had to borrow money from the First National Bank of Lucas, Kansas, to purchase seed and feed.

Each year was worse than the previous one so that he couldn't repay the loan and he had to continue borrowing to keep the farm afloat. After Emory died, my grandfather, Nolan Farrington, continued to borrow money. By 1935 my grandparents were deep in the hole.

One of the entertainments that my grandparents had enjoyed was singing and performing duets and doing comedy skits. Grammy had a beautiful, strong soprano voice, while Grampy sang tenor and yodeled. To repay the loan Grandma and Grandpa decided to join the troupes of performers who crisscrossed the country. They even performed once on stage with the Sons of the Pioneers (which included an extremely young Roy Rogers). Grammy and Grampy also performed on live radio programs including KMMJ in Clay Center, Nebraska. No matter what they tried they could not repay the loan.

Finally in May, 1936, they received a letter from attorneys in Russell, Kansas, saying that they had 30 days, until June 15, 1936, in which to pay off a compromise amount of \$500.00 or the bank would seize the farm.

My mom was nine years old when all this transpired. She overheard the grown-ups talking about the crisis and trying to find solutions. She heard someone mention that if they lost the farm, they might wind up at the Poor Farm in Osborne County.

The Osborne County Poor Farm was similar in size to the one in Lincoln County -- it could house up to 15 individuals at a time. The concept for both was the same -- indigent individuals and families with no resources lived at the farm and were expected to work there to earn their keep. Depending on the individual, the work might be piecing quilts or rag rugs, planting and caring for a vegetable garden or fruit orchard, planting or harvesting crops, or caring for livestock. Children were also expected to work.

It wasn't the work that frightened poor farm residents -- it was the stigma. The least objectionable term I found to describe someone who lived at the poor farm was "inmate." Other terms more commonly used included: shiftless, incompetent, immoral, delinquent, thriftless, and parasitic.

Fortunately my grandparents did have resources -- my great grandparents who owned and operated Ira's Lunch, a restaurant in Lincoln. So my grandparents, mother and aunt moved to Lincoln in the summer of 1936 after the bank foreclosed on the farm in Osborne County.

The Lincoln County Commission purchased land to create Lincoln county's poor farm, located in Beaver Township, in 1896. A small stone house was already on the property and was used as the home for the superintendent, a man who was responsible for overseeing farm operations, and his family. The county also paid for the

construction of a new, large building to house the residents. The first six residents moved into the new building in May, 1896.

Poor farms, and Lincoln's was no exception, kept very limited records if they kept any documentation. Using materials which were prepared by Marlin Jeffers, Traci Hamilton and others I've been trying to re-create a list of residents who lived and died at the farm from 1896 until it was closed and sold in 1962.

In 1912 Marlin Jeffers' paternal grandparents purchased a farm of 320 acres just north across the road from the Lincoln County Farm. His parents lived and worked on the Jeffers' farm when Marlin was born. While Mr. Jeffers lived on his family's farm, the County's land was rented out to Jeffers' dad and two uncles who worked it for 19 years.

In 2009 Mr. Jeffers and a group of friends surveyed the farm cemetery to try to locate all the graves. At that time the only marker still standing was for John Alexander Dane, one of the original six residents of the farm. Mr. Dane died on May 5, 1897. His headstone still stands although time and weather have eroded it.

The completed tally of the cemetery showed 59 graves, 15 males, 44 females, and between 10 - 12 graves that never had headstones so were unmarked. In August, 2014, Jeffers wrote a brief history of the farm and gave it to the Lincoln County Historical Society for reference.

The large house still stands and is now a private residence. In 2006 Mr. Jeffers deeded the cemetery, about 0.265 acres, to the Beaver Township Cemetery Association and it is now called the Lincoln County Farm Cemetery. A sign by the road points the direction to the cemetery.

If you're interested in visiting the cemetery be prepared for a short hike where you will have to climb over barbed wire fence and walk through high weeds. Wear hiking boots or closed toe shoes. I made the trip with Phil and I'm glad I went.

Six northwest Kansas newspapers to consolidate

A single weekly publication, High Plains News, stars with the March 4, 2026, edition

The six newspapers being combined are:

- Colby Free Press
- Goodland Star-News
- The Oberlin Herald
- The Norton Telegram
- St. Francis Herald/Bird City Times
- The Rawlins County Square Deal

A note from the publisher:

Change, Investment, and a Promise to Stay Local

Written By: Julie Thayer, High Plains News Publisher

Next week, when you open your local newspaper, it will look a little different.

Different can be uncomfortable. In small towns, routines matter, the familiar layout, the regular sections, even the place where your eyes instinctively land first on a Wednesday morning. We understand that. A community newspaper is more than ink on paper; it is habit, memory, and trust all rolled into one.

That is why this change was not made lightly.

Owners Lloyd Mullen and Alex Barta have made the difficult decision to combine the Goodland, Colby, Atwood, Norton, Oberlin, and St. Francis newspapers into one publication. It is not a step away from local journalism, it is a step to protect it.

Across rural America, community newspapers are facing challenges unlike any before. Rising printing and postage costs, fewer reporters entering the profession, and shrinking populations all put pressure on something that has always operated on narrow margins. For many towns, those pressures have meant silence, newspapers closing their doors and leaving communities without a record of their own lives.

We refuse to let that happen here.

By combining these publications, we are pooling our resources so we can do what matters most: bring you one strong, quality, news-filled newspaper every week. Instead of spreading limited staff across multiple editions, we can focus on deeper reporting, better photography, stronger sports coverage, and more community stories - the very things that make a hometown paper worth picking up.

This new combined publication will be printed once each week. To ensure fairness to our readers, all Goodland Star-News and Colby Free Press subscribers will have their subscriptions extended so they receive the same total number of printed issues they originally paid for.

Ownership continues to invest in the future of local journalism across our region because they believe rural communities deserve a reliable, professional news source, not just today, but for the next generation. In fact, they recently made a significant personal commitment to that future, purchasing a new press for approximately half a million dollars. It is not simply a piece of equipment; it is a statement of belief in our communities - belief that these newspapers matter, that rural voices matter, and that our communities are worth continuing to serve with care and consistency as we grow.

So yes, next week your newspaper will look different. But behind that change is a commitment: fewer duplicated pages, stronger reporting, and a publication built to last in rural communities that still deserve their stories told in print.

We will focus on local coverage, your schools, your city councils, your county commissioners, your kids' ballgames, and your neighbors' milestones. We are not replacing local voices; we are preserving them by ensuring there is still a printed place for them to live.

This decision was made so that five and ten years from now there will still be a paper on your table, a place where engagements are announced, championships are celebrated, and hard conversations about our communities can still happen in print.

A thinner paper today would be easier. A silent one tomorrow would be devastating.

Next week's paper will be bigger, more colorful, and have a wider reach. But the mission is exactly the same.



John Dane grave marker at the Poor Farm



Marlin Jeffers, Lee Modrow, Terry Harris, Ron Cline, Keith Jeffers, and Henry Jeffers looking for graves at the Poor Farm Cemetery, 2009.

New Kansas bicycle maps now available

TOPEKA - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) posted Request for Applications (RFA) for its first two grant opportunities under the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) in Kansas. The application period for the Regional Partnership (RPGP) and the Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) Conversion/Transformative Capital Investment (CAP) grant programs opened Monday to eligible Kansas providers and organizations pursuing collaborative arrangements with one or more eligible Kansas providers.

Eligible providers include Kansas hospitals, physician practices, solo practitioners, rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, local health departments, Native American Sovereign Tribal health care facilities, certified community behavioral health clinics, licensed substance-use disorder facilities, and licensed long-term care facilities located in rural areas.

"We are excited to kick off the RHTP with these grant opportunities to begin the process of fundamentally transforming the rural health care landscape in Kansas," KDHE Secretary

Janet Stanek said. "The level of funding we are receiving over the next five years through RHTP is historic for our state and provides the means necessary to expand access to health care throughout our rural communities, reaching the most vulnerable Kansans."

The \$44 million RPGP grant enables eligible providers to participate in collaborative arrangements that promote preventive health care and address the root causes of disease, enhance rural providers' efficiency and sustainability, attract and retain a highly-skilled health care workforce, spark growth of value-based care models, and foster the use of innovative technologies. Applications for the RPGP grant are due April 3, 2026.

The REH/CAP grant will provide facilities that have been converted or are in the process of converting to REH status with \$15 million in available funds to make necessary facility renovations and provide other eligible providers with funds to make capital investments to transform how they serve their communities. Applications for the REH/CAP grant are due March 20, 2026.

Detailed submission and restriction information, along with the official RFAs for the grants, have been posted on the Kansas RHTP website. KDHE will host a webinar for interested parties on March 6, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Registration is required for this webinar, and can be accessed.

Kansas received final notice of approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Kansas' annual \$221.89 million budget to implement its RHTP on Feb. 17, 2026. This approval allows KDHE to access the federal funds to launch the Plan's five initiatives.

The RHTP is a national \$50 billion commitment to improve the health and well-being of rural communities across the country. KDHE's implementation of its RHTP initiatives will pursue an approach that is both expeditious and effective, directing targeted resources to high-need areas throughout the state, with a focus on sustaining critical, high-quality health care access and services for rural Kansas.

To support successful implementation, KDHE has partnered with the University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative Association (CCA) to

provide grant assistance and to administer several programs. CCA was instrumental in assisting Kansas with the development of its successful application for the RHTP funding, securing the sixth largest award.

KDHE also looks forward to working with the Kansas Grantmakers in Health and other Kansas-based organizations to transform health care delivery for rural communities across the state. KDHE will continue to engage with the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance (KRHIA) to ensure funds are invested to expand access to care and improve health outcomes for rural Kansans.

The five Kansas RHTP initiatives were designed to improve the health and sustainability of rural communities statewide. The initiatives include:

Improving rural Kansas' health outcomes and transforming the delivery system by implementing and sustaining initiatives that promote preventative health care and address root causes of diseases,

Enhancing rural health care providers' efficiency and sustainability, Attracting and retaining a

highly-skilled health care workforce,

Sparking growth of innovative care models in rural communities that improve quality of care while reducing costs, and,

Fostering the use of innovative technologies to increase access to care for rural Kansans.

KRHIA hosted its virtual meeting on Friday, Feb. 27, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was livestreamed on the KDHE YouTube Page: <https://youtube.com/live/51RvWcPpU?feature=sTo> learn more about KDHE's commitment to protecting and improving the health and environment of all Kansans through the RHTP visit: Rural Health Transformation Program | KDHE, KS.

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