



# DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS-TIMES



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In Loving Memory of SSG Rafael A. Rios Jr.  
08/20/1993 – 01/17/2026

Sgt. Rafael Rios Jr. Will be placed on the Hall of Heroes on Fort Riley on March 31st, 2026.

**WSL BASKETBALL ALL-LEAGUE HONORABLE MENTION**

**#15**

**RYLEIGH JONES**

**WSL BASKETBALL ALL-LEAGUE 2ND TEAM**

**#12**

**BRADY IDLEMAN**

**WSL BASKETBALL ALL-LEAGUE HONORABLE MENTION**

**#2**

**NOAH BRUNNER**



The Herington Middle School Vocal group performed at the Wheat State League MS Music Festival, in Wakefield on Tuesday, March 10. The group performed two selections and earned a "1" (superior) rating. (Courtesy USD 487)

**2026 Wheat State All-League Basketball Teams**

WSL Boys			WSL Girls		
<b>1st Team</b>			<b>1st Team</b>		
Calvin Mattison*	11	Solomon	Arika Feldman*	12	Little River
Jaren Garrison	11	Little River	Avery Lafferty*	11	Little River
Jaxson Konen	12	Little River	Trinity Espinoza	12	Canton-Galva
Kustom Schamp	11	Canton-Galva	Kaimey Evans	10	Rural Vista
Ethan Brozek	11	Canton-Galva	Grace Prescott	12	Elyria Christian
Jameson Miles	11	Peabody-Burns	Havana Olander	12	Little River
<b>2nd Team</b>			<b>2nd Team</b>		
Nate Romero	11	Elyria Christian	Delaney Duerksen	10	Goessel
Lincoln Raleigh	10	Little River	Adelyne Strecker	12	Little River
Breken Coup	11	Solomon	Joy Pyle	11	Elyria Christian
Tucker Mein	12	Rural Vista	Mackenzie Voth	9	Goessel
Celian Van Bemten	12	Rural Vista	Evie Look	12	Little River
Brady Idleman	10	Centre	Lilliana Stilwell	10	Rural Vista
<b>Honorable Mention</b>			<b>Honorable Mention</b>		
Tyler Brockmeier	12	Rural Vista	Mia Hoppes	11	Canton-Galva
Logan Schubert	11	Little River	Faith McMannis	10	Canton-Galva
Kole Riedy	12	Rural Vista	Saelyn Raleigh	11	Little River
Jaxon Nightengale	11	Canton-Galva	Ryleigh Jones	11	Centre
Greyson Broadus	11	Elyria Christian	Isabelle Alderfer	11	Goessel
Cameron Herring	11	Solomon	Isabelle Ecklund	12	Herington
Grant Eskeldson	12	Rural Vista	Abi Johnson	11	Goessel
Koehn Duryea	11	Solomon	Sarah Winfrey	11	Peabody-Burns
Trey Gaddis	12	Goessel	Karis Nordgren	10	Solomon
Ethan Harrington	12	Canton-Galva	Haven Bower	10	Elyria Christian
Noah Brunner	10	Centre			



**Contact Information: Dickinson County News-Times**  
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**Closed: Monday - Tuesday for Delivery and Production**  
**Phone Hours: Wednesday - Friday 11 am - 3 pm**

# Worship Guide

## First Baptist Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

## St. Michael Catholic Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Rev. Connie D. Wooldridge  
Chapman United Methodist Church

## PASTOR'S CORNER

We were excited to have a cook-out at our new house. The guests were invited and the menu was set. I was cooking the burgers and dogs and making ice cream for dessert. It was a great party. We ate our fill, sang some songs, played some games and then it was time for the ice cream. I proudly served heaping scoops, but soon learned there was a problem. I had forgotten to add sugar. Ice cream is not as tasty without sugar. I have been teased about that ruined ice cream many times since, but that didn't stop me from pulling out the freezer for the next cookout. Now I double check my ingredients and churn away. With a few tweaks and some practice, I have made some

## KEEP TRYING

tasty soft serve through the years. We would have missed so much if I had let my failure put a stop to my ice cream adventures. I have learned my lesson well; I haven't really failed until I stop trying. Life is not defined by what I get right the first time. Life is about learning and growing. My faith reminds me that every time I get something wrong, I can admit my mistake, review the failed process and try again. That is grace at its best. We are gifted by God the opportunity to become the people God created us to be. I have been reading *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr and he says it this way: "God does not love any of us because we are good, God loves us because God is good" Our good God doesn't want to punish us because we're bad; God wants us to love us into the good we can be. Never stop learning from mistakes.



## THIS DAY - IN - THE HERINGTON TIMES

Mark Will  
DCNT Columnist

125 years ago - 1901  
**CABOOSE SMASHED** - A caboose in the Rock Island yards was smashed almost into kindling wood while the switch crew was busy at work Monday night. George King was sleeping in it and, although not badly injured physically, he was so nearly scared to death that there was no fun in it. He managed to get out alive and that was about all.

100 years ago - 1926  
**BUILD TWO BATH HOUSES** - The Park Commission let the contract Friday night for building two bath rooms at the swimming pool to W. R. Covert for \$1,180. The bath rooms will be of stucco, with an arched entrance and lattice work and will have showers and toilets. The bath houses will not only be a great convenience to the bathers but will be attractive in appearance. (Note: The above bath rooms were likely razed when the present bathhouse was built in 1937)

75 years ago - 1951  
**TO OFFER BETTER MOVIES FOR KIDS OF HERINGTON** - Tom Wolf, the manager of the Dreamland Theater is making a concentrated effort to bring better pictures to Herington for the younger set. He will show 'The Wizard of Oz' on Saturday morning. This is one of a group of shows selected for morning showing only. This will be a test to see if Herington really wants better shows for their children. Other films which are members of the Children's Library include: 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Young Tom Edison', 'Huckleberry Finn', 'The Prince and the Pauper', 'Midsummer Night's Dream' and many others of the same kind.

## BICENTENNIAL WAGON TRAIN HEADED HERE

Mr. Wolf has written letters to the P.T.A. organization and to the City Federation who have voted to do all in their power to promote this project.

50 years ago - 1976  
**BICENTENNIAL WAGON TRAIN HEADED HERE** - A wagon train on a cross-country Bicentennial Pilgrimage will make an overnight stop in Herington. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Rumsford of Abbyville, who have the responsibility of hiring a wagon master, teamsters, and outriders, conducted a meeting Thursday in Council Grove to explain what the historic project will entail. The wagon train coming through Herington will include a Conestoga Wagon and chuckwagon from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the sponsors of the official Bicentennial project; Prairie Schooners representing various states to the west of Kansas; plus a number of privately owned wagons. The wagon train started rolling in Southern California on New Year's Day with wagons from California and Hawaii, and since then has been joined by Arizona and New Mexico wagons and will travel Colorado before entering Kansas. An estimated 17 to 21 wagons and about 100 people are expected to be in the caravan. It is hoped that a parade can be staged in connection with the arrival of the wagons in Herington and the encampment site will probably be at the Herington fairgrounds. The evening encampment will give residents a chance to meet the waggoners, look over the wagons, and watch the feeding and grooming of the horses. Herington Historical Society & Museum, 800 S. Broadway. Hours: 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. - markcwill1963@gmail.com

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Did you know?

Easter is celebrated on a different day within Christian churches.

Easter is a day of great joy for faithful Christians. Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is detailed in the New Testament. Easter is what's known as a moveable feast, which means it's not celebrated on the same date each year. Easter also is celebrated on a different day within Christian churches. Orthodox Christians do not celebrate Easter on the same day as non-Orthodox Christians. History.com notes Orthodox Christians follow the Julian calendar when determining when to celebrate Easter. Orthodox Easter will take place between April 4 and May 8, following the first full moon after Passover. Non-orthodox Christians follow the Gregorian calendar, which was established by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Under the Gregorian calendar, churches determined Easter will be held on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. These disparities are why Orthodox churches, which are primarily located in Russia, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, and Bulgaria, observe Easter on a later date than non-Orthodox churches. In 2026, Orthodox Christians will celebrate Easter on April 12.

## VIEW FROM THE HILL- Scott Hill

### A Video Screen Slight of Hand

We each have seen an illusionist who seems to make people and objects appear and then disappear. The fascination with "magic" is that the impression of the impossible that we see before our eyes draws us into the illusion. Our rational side knows that what we are seeing isn't true. However, the visual deception is strong enough to, at least temporarily, make us question what we know.

At one time I strongly embraced an idea that over time has been shown to be an illusion. Near the end of the last millennium the rapid changes in technology gave many of us great optimism for the future of electronic-based learning systems. Baby boomers often struggled to adapt to emerging technology. However, in contrast, the promise that the next generation would be fully computer "literate" gave great hope. Our children and subsequent generations would learn faster, more completely, and with less effort.

The combination of entertainment and education had an allure that pulled us into dedicating significant resources to technology.

School districts have spent billions on technology connectivity. Additional billions have been spent on a myriad of electronic devices, including but not limited to desktops, cameras, laptops, video screens, whiteboards, and projectors. Teachers are rigorously trained in the use of technology and coveted districts have one laptop for every child.

Young children are taught keyboarding, and most children are immersed in electronic device manipulation. The additive effect of technology should be readily apparent in our educational outcomes. Unfortunately, it appears that just the opposite of what we expected has happened. The National As-

essment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is designed to give a summative snapshot of educational progress based on a statistically significant sampling. The reading scores at both 4th and 8th grade are at an historical low with only approximately 25% of students being proficient at reading. In mathematics fourth graders are doing better (40% proficient), however 8th grade math is also historically low. It may be simplistic to attribute poor longitudinal performance to the immersion of technology; however, the inverse relationship is certainly evident.

Recent brain research has shown that retention of information is less when the information comes from a digital screen vs an old-fashioned book. Furthermore, the manipulation of a pen or pencil to write words provides a more connected approach to language than utilizing a keyboard to record thoughts. Solid research conducted on learning strategies has shown that laptops can help with tutoring, but the correlation with learning nearly triples when a competent teacher develops empathy with students. Illusions are entertaining.

We all enjoy exploring what-if in our brains. Learning in the formative years is too important to trust methods that indicators illustrate are ineffective. It takes time for our brains to process the fact that images we have seen indicating potential success are simply not working. The facts are, though, that the idea of entertainment-education has not been a panacea to revolutionize education. It is essential for our future generations to take a step back and rely on proven educational methods that may lack the glitz of technological promises but provide solid results. Our children, our teens, and our society need the reality of solid education, not mirages that tantalize.

Send your photos, stories, opinion pieces, letters to the editor, and events to [Dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com](mailto:Dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com)

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Thursday, March 19: 9:00 a.m. -?: FOOTCARE!  
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Friday, March 20: FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!

Wednesday, March 25: 11:30 - Trivia Day

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**Friday, March 20:** Fish OR Baked Pork Chop, Sweet Potatoes, Spinach, Applesauce, Wheat Roll

**Monday, March 23:** Smothered Chicken, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Strawberries & Bananas, Wheat Roll

**Tuesday, March 24:** Liver & Onions OR Beef Patty, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Pineapple, Wheat Roll

**Wednesday, March 25:** Chili & Crackers, Coleslaw, Peaches, Cinnamon Roll

**Thursday, March 26:** Chicken Parmesan, Spaghetti Noodles, Italian Blend, Vegetables, Cinnamon Applesauce, Garlic Bread

**Hilltop Community Center**  
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**Friday, March 20:** Fish or Baked Pork Chop, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Spinach, Applesauce, Roll, Milk

**Monday, March 23:** Chicken Strips, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Strawberries & Bananas, Roll, Milk

**Tuesday, March 24:** Liver & Onions or Beef Patty, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Carrots, Pineapple, Roll

**Wednesday, March 25:** Chili, Coleslaw, Crackers, Peaches, Cinnamon Roll, Milk

**Thursday, March 26:** Spaghetti & Meatballs, Italian Blend Veggies, Cinnamon Applesauce, Garlic Bread, Milk

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- May 8, 2026
- Kansas Civic Games - Topeka, KS
- October 29

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**Congratulations to the JH choir on receiving a 1 rating (Outstanding) at the WSL music festival! (Courtesy of Centre)**



**The Centre robotics team finished in 11th place at the State meet in Wichita on Saturday! Congratulations to the team members: Anna Godinez Vinduska and Addison Bina as well as their coach, Mr. Rziha. The team also won the sportsmanship award and the innovate award. (Courtesy of Centre)**



# Little Sports Day!

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Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
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**Screenings  
Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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**Catholic Charities**

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

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

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

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

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

**DRIVE THRU FOOD PICK UP**

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

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

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

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

**Congratulations to our Select Ensemble "The Singing Irish" for singing the National Anthem at the opening round of the State Basketball Tournament. They did an amazing job at the Tony's Event Center in Salina, KS. (Courtesy of USD 473)**



**Seven Kansas Ag Teachers Named Golden Owl District Finalists**

Manhattan, Kan. — The Kansas FFA Foundation announced the seven district-level finalists for the 2026 Golden Owl recognition — ag teachers from across the state who were nominated by students, parents, colleagues, and community members for their exceptional service to students, FFA chapters, and their communities.

Each district finalist will receive a \$500 check and an engraved plaque in recognition of their outstanding classroom work and leadership. The finalists are also in contention to be named the State Winner at the 2026 Kansas State FFA Convention on the campus of Kansas State University in Manhattan. From Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, nominations were collected for the state's top agricultural teachers from local students, parents, fellow teachers, and community members across Kansas.

Nationwide — the national sponsor of the Golden Owl Award — partners with state FFA organizations to honor outstanding ag teachers. The State Winner will receive a \$3,000 Nationwide-funded award and the Golden Owl trophy, and Nationwide is donating \$5,000 to the Kansas FFA Foundation to further support Kansas agricultural education programs. This year, the award program honors outstanding ag educators in 15 states:

- Southwest (SW): Caitly Thompson — Spearville High School
  - Northeast (NED): Jeanie Wege — Hiawatha High School
  - East Central (ECD): Dr. Kelly Hoelting — Mission Valley
  - Southeast (SED): Karlea Clark — Cherryvale High School
- “Ag teachers are invaluable,” said Yancy Wright, Kansas FFA Foundation Board Chairman. “In the classroom, they do more than teach lessons — they inspire, mentor and prepare students for meaningful careers and lives. We celebrate the dedication of these educators and the powerful, everyday impact they make on students, FFA chapters, and communities across Kansas.”
- About the Kansas FFA Foundation:
- The Kansas FFA Foundation is dedicated to supporting agricultural education and FFA programs across the state of Kansas. Its mission is to develop partnerships that provide resources to enhance and sustain premier leadership, personal growth, and career success for Kansas FFA members. By fostering relationships with individuals, businesses, and organizations, the Foundation ensures the continued success of FFA initiatives and the future of agriculture.
- About the Kansas FFA Foundation: Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest and strongest diversified financial services and insurance organizations in the United States. Nationwide is rated A+ by Standard & Poor's.
- South Central (SC): Sonya Roberts — Hillsboro High School
  - North Central (NCD): Jim Weller — Chapman High School
  - Northwest (NW): Allison Dix — Phillipsburg High School

- Southwest (SW): Caitly Thompson — Spearville High School
  - Northeast (NED): Jeanie Wege — Hiawatha High School
  - East Central (ECD): Dr. Kelly Hoelting — Mission Valley
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- About the Kansas FFA Foundation: Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest and strongest diversified financial services and insurance organizations in the United States. Nationwide is rated A+ by Standard & Poor's.

# EVENTS

- 19 Mar, Thu**  
6 – 7pm Post 12 American Legion-  
Herington
- 20 Mar, Fri**  
6:30 – 7:30pm VFW Bingo 101 E Main  
St
- 21 Mar, Sat**  
All day Archery - Home Tournament  
Herington
- 23 Mar, Mon**  
9 – 10am Veterans Coffee The Pin Up  
Cafe  
3:30 – 4:30pm USD 473 BSB V  
Jamboree vs MV/Ross  
3:30 – 4:30pm USD 473 SB V/JV  
Jamboree vs RHS/MVHS  
4 – 5:30pm USD 487 Baseball: Varsity  
Council Grove  
4 – 5:30pm USD 487 Softball: Varsity  
Council Grove
- 24 Mar, Tue**  
4 – 6pm Scholars Bowl Tournament @  
Abilene  
5:30 – 7pm CMS - Trivia Night / Chili  
6:30 – 7:30pm GBB Banquet
- 25 Mar, Wed**  
All day FFA Agronomy Farm Expo @  
Salina  
All day HS Scholastic Art National  
Announcement  
6:30 – 7:30pm WR Banquet



WSL ALL-LEAGUE

Honorable Mention  
**CAMERON HERRING**

Honorable Mention  
**KOEHN DURYEYEA**

WSL ALL-LEAGUE

Honorable Mention  
**KARIS NORDGREN**

WSL ALL-LEAGUE

Unanimous First Team  
**CALVIN MATTISON**

Second Team  
**BREKEN COUP**

Two chapter members tried the Discussion Meet LDE before spring break. It went well! Carleigh Abeldt placed fourth individually. Carleigh and Katie Stoffer placed 3rd as a team! It was a great day for Chapman FFA! (Curtesy of USD 473)

- Herington Middle School  
2025-2026  
3rd Quarter  
Honor Roll
- Straight A's 4.00  
6th Grade: None  
7th Grade: Alaina Hight  
8th Grade: Ava Thibodeau  
High Honors 3.99-3.71  
6th Grade: Evan Lawrenz, Declan Thibodeau  
7th Grade: Lincoln Barnes, Anastaria Haynes, Mae Nelson, Olivia Sjodahl, Elena Zeller  
8th Grade: Lillian Rucker, Blake Vogt, Jr. Honors 3.70-3.40  
6th Grade: Brooklyn Bess  
7th Grade : Carlos Cook, Shelby Friesen, Jaxton Lawrenz, Iker Lechuga, Carly Miller, Caleb Myers  
8th Grade: Diego Concannon, Aubren Ecklund, Amya Garcia, Maddox Gentz, Danaya Oliver, Kiran Toutant, Alleigha Weber, Bentley Wyss
- Honorable Mention: 3.39-3.00  
6th Grade: Khloe Castleberry, Taryn Ebright, Sky Glessner, Alex LeBlanc, Casen Matthews, Hayden Mein, Kora Meyer,  
7th Grade: Peyton Dodge, Ken'Nyia Knight, Ryiah Meier, Kolt Porter, Oliver Seger,  
Weston Stuchlik  
8th Grade: Aurorah Algarin, Harlee Catlin, Chrispen Matthews, Jaidan Mueller, Braxton Pigorsch, Jaelyn Rand



**SpiceUpYourLife-ChickenAlfredoTaterTotCasserole  
Lindsey Young**

week, sometimes the old favorites take a backseat to something experimental.) That means, when I found a recipe that is a big twist on tater tot casserole this week, you know I had to give it a try. This comes from the blog "Inspire Spire." You can find the original post at <https://inspirespire.com/2025/07/18/chicken-alfredo-tater-tot-casserole-recipe/>. I added extra seasonings and

a nine-by-13-inch baking dish by spraying it with cooking spray, and set it aside. Heat the olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, bell pepper and mushrooms, and saute until everything is cooked through. Add the chicken, alfredo sauce, and seasonings to a bowl and mix it well. (If your alfredo sauce is already seasoned the way you like, you don't need to add all the extras. Just follow your heart.) Evenly spread the chicken mixture into the bottom of your prepared pan.

Cover the top with a single layer of tater tots, and then top evenly with the cheese. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until the cheese is lightly browned on top. This was creamy and delicious, and the leftovers were fabulous. I will say that if you put a little extra cheese on it like I did, you might want to layer that under the tater tots so they get nice and crispy. I definitely made this more complicated than the original, which honestly just included the sauce, chicken, tots and cheese, but I couldn't resist adding the extra veggies and mushrooms to the mix, and they were really good. I think Joey secretly knew I was trying to trick him into moving tater tot casserole up on his list with this twist, but he just has too many other meals he likes a lot more. He did like it, though. Regardless, if I'm ever going to be at home by myself for several days, I might need to opt for this new tater tot casserole to sustain me through the week. Spice Up Your Life is a weekly recipe column by Lindsey Young, who describes herself as an enthusiastic amateur cook and can be reached through her website at [spiceupkitchen.net](http://spiceupkitchen.net).

Chicken alfredo tater tot casserole puts an Italian twist on a classic casserole concept. It's a creamy, delicious dinner that's easy to make and easy to customize.

This classic casserole is entering a new school of 'tot'

Back before my married days, one of my favorite dishes to make for myself was a big nine-by-13-inch pan of good, old-fashioned tater tot casserole.

Of course, being one person, that also meant I was dedicating one meal a day for the next week to eating plenty of leftovers. I'm a sucker for leftovers, though, so while that might have driven some of you crazy, I always loved it.

When Joey and I married, I learned that he wasn't against a tater tot casserole. It was just on his "it's fine" list of foods, so I don't make it too often these days. (Plus, with needing to try a new recipe every

some veggies and mushrooms in my version.

**Chicken Alfredo Tater Tot Casserole  
Ingredients**

- 1-2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 medium yellow onion, diced
- 1 small bell pepper, diced (any color)
- 1/2 cup diced mushrooms (I used baby bellas)
- 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- 15 ounces alfredo sauce
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 32 ounce bag frozen tater tots
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan

**Directions**  
Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Prepare

**Regular Meeting  
March 3, 2026  
6:00 p.m.**  
The Herington City Commission met on the above date and time in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. In attendance were Mayor Eric Gares, Commissioner Cynthia Naylor, Commissioner Robbin Bell and Commissioner Larry Mann. Absent as Commissioner Dalton Scarff. Also in attendance were City Manager Thatcher Moddie, City Attorney Brad Jantz, City Clerk Megan Lawrenz, Chief of Police Chad Langley, Fire Chief Andrew Avantagiato, Public Works Director Cody Oswald, Rhonda Rice, and Lisa Schlesener. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Gares called the meeting to order. The meeting recessed until 6:05pm. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Naylor. Motion carried 4-0. Public Forum – None. Consent Agenda – Commissioner Mann made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items, February 17, 2026, Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2026, Special City Commission Meeting Minutes, Consider Appointing Curtis Hartman to Herington Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 4-0. Proclamations and Announcements – None. Discuss Two Bids for City Manager Hiring Search Firms, Consider Proposal from Each Firm Award Bid to the League of Kansas Municipalities as the Hiring Firm for the City Manager Position, authorize staff to Execute Payment from City Hall Admin Budget – Commissioner Mann made a motion to award the bid to LKM, seconded by Commissioner Naylor.

lor. Motion carried 4-0. Authorize Mayor to Execute Contract for Hiring Search with the League of Kansas Municipalities, to Immediately Begin work on the Hiring Search Process – Commissioner Mann made a motion to execute the contract with LKM and designate Mayor Gares as the point of contact, seconded by Commissioner Naylor. Motion carried 4-0. Department Head Updates – Public Works - February Report Street dept  
• We were able to get all large trees removed from the new lake dam; all that's left is small woody brush that we will continue to spray and burn it. We were able to get the new lake dam burnt off this year already and will be working to do more control burning at the lakes as weather is decent.  
• We have finished repairing one boat dock and will be installing it back at the lake soon, also have started rebuilding the second boat dock that we removed  
• We brought dirt to the north park bathrooms to level out around the new sidewalk. Water dept  
• Ditch diggers are almost done with the sewer line project; there were some issues with casing that was used and now has been corrected. They will be pouring concrete on 5th street this week (weather depending) and hopefully the roadway will be opened back up soon.  
• Water department assisted the city of Hope to locate a water line with our vac trailer. 4  
• We assisted the city of Woodbine with a water leak that was in the water meter pit  
• This month Zac and Scott will be attending Kansas rural water. Work orders  
• We have completed 4 work orders Police Department –

There were 137 calls for service with 29 traffic stops and two arrests. The newest officer, Officer Frey, is about 1/3 of the way through the academy and everything is going well there. The department is looking into some rural law enforcement grants to see if there is an option to fund updating body cam and dash cam systems. To purchase outright is expensive, but those cameras are likely going to need to be upgraded sooner rather than later. The department has two openings due to two officers resigning due to life changes within two weeks of each other in February. One moved to KC, and one decided to step away from law enforcement all together. The department is looking to bring on a part time officer or two to assist with coverage until full-time replacements are found. Sorting through several applicants. Fire Department – There were 52 calls for service including 35 medical assists, 2 grass fires, 7 controlled burns, 1 structure fire, 1 fire alarm, 5 MVA, 1 electrical standby, 1 state task force deployment, and 1 investigation. Training covered donning and doffing structure gear, cleaning SCBA masks and Scott Paks after calls, and RIT operations. SCBA masks were also fit tested. Matt, McKenna and Andrew attended a 4-day wildland class in KC covering Firefighter Type 1, Fire Operation in WUI, and Firing Operations. The department is still receiving a good turnout for calls but is always looking for volunteers. HFD went on their first statewide deployment with Johnson County Wildland Task Force to Liberal, KS. Squad 1 deployed with 2 members Feb. 16th -19th. A relief crew was sent in a support vehicle on the evening of the 19th and came home on the 20th. Still waiting

on AT&T to complete fiber install on new tower. We were requested for a USAR deployment and had two seats filled. The deployment was cancelled. Code & Inspection – There was 1 electrical permit, 5 plumbing permits, 1 mechanical permit, 1 demo permit, 1 violation, 5 utility inspections 1 condemned property (120 S Broadway St), 1 verbal contact that was cleaned up and 15 inspections. 29 invoices were mailed out for grass violations from August-November 2025. 1402 Gehrke Ct has poured the foundation and is progressing. New build at 212 S F is complete. Consider Ordinance for WWTF Phase II Project – Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the Ordinance in the next sequential order and to authorize the mayor's signature, seconded by Commissioner Naylor. Motion carried 4-0. Consider Final Loan Agreement for WWTF Phase II Project – Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the Final Loan Agreement for the WWTF Phase II and to authorize the mayor to execute all documents, seconded by Commissioner Naylor. Motion carried 4-0. Discussion of Awarding UP-TICC Grant to Herington Veterinary Clinic in the Amount of \$5,000 for Building Improvements – Commissioner Bell made a motion to award \$2500 to the Herington Veterinary Clinic, seconded by Commissioner Mann. Motion carried 4-0. Discussion of Interim City Manager Position – Eric table to March 17, Cynthia 4-0. Executive Session – Mayor Gares made a motion that the Herington City Commission recess into Continued on page 11

**Kansas Masonic Foundation Supports Local Kansas Masonic Lodge With Kansas C.O.P.S. Donation**

**Justice Lodge No. 457 Donates \$1,000 to Kansas Concerns of Police Survivors**

Emporia, Kansas (March 6, 2026)—The Kansas Masonic Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to benefitting Kansas communities, has partnered with Justice Lodge No. 457 to donate \$1,000 to Kansas Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), an organization committed to providing peer support to the surviving family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

Founded in 2011, Justice Lodge No. 457 is an Affinity Lodge for current and retired Kansas law enforcement officers, judges, prosecuting attorneys, dispatchers, corrections officers, and those who deal with the criminal justice system. The lodge currently has 28 active members who meet four to six times each year at various locations across the state and support various law enforcement-related causes.

While Kansas C.O.P.S. is the primary recipient of Justice Lodge's charitable endeavors, it has previously contributed to the Kansas Law Enforcement Leadership Academy, the Kansas Masonic All-State High School Marching Band Camp, the Miami County Cancer Association,

the National Law Enforcement Memorial, SOS Inc., and many other local causes around the state.

"In 2017, we found that this group needed funding to support their endeavors. Given our direct relationship with law enforcement, working with Kansas C.O.P.S. has been and remains a natural fit for us," said Justice Lodge No. 457 Secretary Daren Kellerman. "This organization is our primary charity recipient, and since 2017, we have donated over \$14,000 to support their mission; our relationship with the organization and, more importantly, supporters, continues to grow each year."

To continue assisting those in need and promoting brotherly love throughout the community, the Brothers at Justice Lodge No. 457 have teamed up with the Kansas Masonic Foundation to donate \$1,000 to Kansas Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.). The funds donated will help assist the organization's mission of providing peer support to the surviving family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. They do so by offering emotional support, helping survivors understand the judicial process, and providing information about available services within the local community, state, and nation. Additionally, they aim to provide long-term support and train state law enforcement agencies in handling line-of-duty death procedures appropriately. A

donation presentation will take place in the coming weeks.

About the Kansas Masonic Foundation: As the philanthropic arm of Kansas Masons, the Kansas Masonic Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to benefiting Kansas communities and supporting fellow Masons and their families. Since its inception, the foundation has invested more than \$50 million in Kansas communities and individuals through funding academic, scientific, and charitable endeavors. For additional information about the Kansas Masonic Foundation and to get involved, please visit [kansasmasonic.foundation](http://kansasmasonic.foundation).

About the Grand Lodge of Kansas: The Grand Lodge of Kansas is the governing body of Freemasonry in Kansas, established on March 17, 1856, five years prior to Kansas' statehood. Freemasonry is the oldest, largest, and most widely recognized fraternal organization in the world. Freemasons are men, aged 18 and over, of good character who strive to improve themselves and make the world a better place. Kansas Freemasonry encompasses nearly 11,000 Kansas Masons and 170 Lodges across the state. For more information, please visit [kansasmason.org](http://kansasmason.org).

# DO YOU WANT A GRADUATION/SPORTS PRINTED EDITION?

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

**2x2  
\$50**



**2x4  
\$75**

**1x2  
\$30**

**SIGNATURE  
\$20**

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

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

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

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

## Mothers OLD Chair By: Van Yandell

Galatians 6: 9 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Mother bought a pair of yard chairs in the 1950's. Steel constructed with a curved one-piece leg assembly, those chairs were to be cherished for years to come. The bodies they supported in comfort and conversation for those years are too numerous to count or to even try to imagine. Sunday afternoons were special. Friends or relatives would come over (or Mom and Dad would go visiting). I was forced to go along on those visits because they couldn't trust me to stay out of trouble. Many of the residents of our little western Kentucky town believed in demons. I'll not go into the details of why!

Sitting in those metal chairs was not thought of as anything special but if some of their occupants had known how long the chairs would outlive them, panic would have erupted.

Mother was much prouder of those chairs than me, simply because she realized they would be in her presence much longer; or perhaps because they would always be where she could see them.

A few years ago one of the chairs collapsed and the other, yesterday. They lasted over seventy years and my first thought was, “They don't make them the way they used to.”

Being a former indus-

trial arts teacher and carpenter, you might know I have many tools. Actually, some belonged to my dad and are also very old. Wrenches of various kinds, hammers, pliers and measuring tools, they are in better shape than newly produced ones.

When using any of those tools the same thought crosses my mind: “They don't make them the way they used to.”

I'm thinking they don't make mothers like they used to either. Of course many would argue that thought and that's okay. If you don't think your mother was the grandest woman in the world, we need to have a little talk.

Mom put up with a lot out of me. I was a free spirit part of the time and the town dog at other times. In the summers and many times on school days, when leaving home she never knew where I'd end up and apparently didn't worry much. She really became suspicious when I took my fishing rod to school.

A lot of time was spent over at the “horse lot” pond fishing. On Saturdays we all met at the ball park and played baseball even in the winter.

Some of the things we did would make mothers of today cringe and in some cases pass out. Drinking out of a water hose, swimming (unclothed) in a farm pond and exploring a few local caves were activities I failed to share with Mom.

But she hung in there

with me and Dad. I'm sure her nerves were shredded to a frazzle and what kept her heart from exploding had to be based on God wanting her to live a little longer. She tried to inspire me to make good grades in school but that kind of thing didn't appeal to me. I was probably her greatest gift from God and her greatest disappointment at times all rolled into one.

Mom thought the church was where I needed to be on Sunday mornings. That was non-negotiable! Arguing or begging didn't work with her and if I tried, daddy got into the discussion and preferably (on my part) it was best for that not to happen.

As most Americans, I have a lot to be thankful for. At the top of the list is that I was born into a Christian home with parents that were adamant about my upbringing and Christian teaching was at the center of their beliefs. Somewhere during the early years I was taught John 3: 16. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Being forced to go to Sunday School as a youngster probable caused my teachers and of course mom, more heartache than I prefer to think about. I always had lots of questions. When I asked “Why didn't the whale digest Jonah or why didn't he smother in the belly of the whale for three

days?” trouble was on the horizon. I will take credit for enhancing their prayer lives.

As the years passed, the Christian teachings by Mother and Dad made their desired impact. I became a firm believer in Jesus Christ as the one true Creator God (John 1: 1-3), and that belief intensified into an adamant compulsion to tell others about our Jesus.

Many Christians in old age will tell, we are not the same person we were at ten years old, or twenty or thirty. We change! We evolve and we learn. As the years have passed, I realize and many others will probably agree, good or bad, our moms and dads made us who and what we are.

The Christian teaching of eternal security (John 10: 28-30), by our belief is supported by Biblical evidence specifically the information God gave in the Bible no mere mortal could have known 2000 to 3000 years ago.

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

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

## MURDER MYSTERIES, USO SHOWS, RETURN TO ABILENE AND SMOKY VALLEY DINNER TRAIN

Murder mysteries, USO Shows and even a game show will return to the A&SV's Smoky Valley Limited dinner train this season.

The Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad has contracted with Incahoots Entertainment of Lawrence for a total of nine productions this season. Erin Fox and John Robison are returning to the A&SV rails with six murder mysteries, two USO shows, and a special “Family Feud” game show train in August.

The A&SV's Chicago car will be the home of all on-train entertainment this season. The open performance area in the 1940s passenger coach makes it a natural venue for music and murder mysteries, both of which depend on audience participation.

Seating for the performances is limited, since the Chicago car seats 56 diners, the maximum audience size for any on-train production. Tickets for dinner and special productions are sold on a first-come, first-served basis at the railroad's website, asvrr.org.

“Last season, we staged

entertainment in the Eveland Creek car,” said Ross Boelling, A&SV General Manager.

“Eveland a beautiful, classic passenger coach, but there's an etched glass divider in that car that makes it difficult to stage the interactive kinds of entertainment our dinner train guests enjoy. The Chicago car has no obstructions and has more room, giving Erin and John a better performance area.”

The murder mystery series is being called “Murder in Chicago” to remind potential passengers of the need to reserve their tickets in the Chicago car. Passengers in the Eveland Creek or Enterprise cars will not feature live entertainment, but dinner will be served in all three coaches.

“Murder mysteries were popular with our diners last year, and we're looking forward to this year's series,” Boelling said.

“People who plan on being on the train to catch a mystery need to book ahead so they can be assured of getting

one of the 56 available Chicago car seats.”

Performer Erin Fox said she and Robison will be performing four scripts from last year and will add two shows that are new to A&SV audiences.

The performance series begins on March 28, with a murder mystery, “Tommy Guns and Cigarettes.” Other Murder in Chicago shows and dates are: July 11, “Who Killed the Gnat”; August 8, “Love in th4 Ozarks”; August 29, “Bootleggers Paradise”; October 3, “The Haunting of Betsy Von Bulow”; and November 21, “Tragedy at the North Pole.”

Fox and Robison, along with their accompanist Mike Schurtz, will perform two USO variety shows. The first will be staged as a salute to General Dwight Eisenhower and America's role in World War II on June 6 in honor of D-Day. The second USO performance show will be produced in honor of Veterans Day on the November 14 train.

# Prairie Doc Perspective

Meaningful Living in Rural Communities: Pathways to Productive Aging

By: Whitney Lucas Molitor, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, BCG and Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L

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 bene-

fits 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 avRadio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

## Dickinson County Communities Recognized for 2025 Community Development Block Grant Awards

Dickinson County - Communities across Dickinson County were recognized during the Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Award Ceremony held March 11, 2026, in Topeka, where recipients from across the state were honored for projects funded through the 2025 grant cycle. Projects in Chapman, Enterprise, Herington and Dickinson County received funding through the program, supporting improvements ranging from historic building restoration to park upgrades and critical infrastructure repairs. The CDBG program provides federal funding to rural communities for projects that improve quality of life, strengthen local economies and address essential facility and infrastructure needs.

**Chapman — Historic Opera House restoration**  
The City of Chapman received a \$300,000 Commercial Rehabilitation grant to restore the second floor of the historic Buhner Opera House building. The project will allow the upper level to be renovated for future commercial and community use, helping preserve one of Chapman’s most recognizable downtown landmarks while creating new opportunities for events, businesses and local programming. Investments like this help ensure historic buildings remain active parts of the community while supporting continued downtown revitalization.

## Enterprise — Park and pool improvements

The City of Enterprise was awarded a \$650,000 Community Facilities grant to improve park amenities, including upgrades to the city pool, splash features, shade structures, restrooms, concessions and fencing.

The improvements will enhance one of the community’s primary gathering spaces and provide expanded recreation opportunities for residents, families and visitors. Projects like this help strengthen small communities by supporting spaces that bring people together.

## Herington — Wastewater system repairs

The City of Herington received a \$94,413 Urgent Need grant to replace failed aeration blowers at the city’s wastewater treatment facility.

Although less visible than other projects, infrastructure improvements like this are critical to maintaining safe and reliable public services. The repair ensures the system can continue operating properly and helps prevent more costly issues in the future.

**Dickinson County / Abilene — Downtown rehabilitation project**  
Projects across Dickinson County reflect a variety of local priorities, from recreation improvements to historic preservation and essential infrastructure upgrades. In Abilene, the Community Development Block Grant awarded to Dickinson County will support continued investment in one of the community’s historic downtown buildings.

## Dickinson County received a \$298,000 Commercial Rehabilitation grant for improvements

to the historic Post Office Block building in Abilene, part of the Abilene downtown historic lofts project. The work will restore the exterior façade and prepare the building for continued commercial use, supporting ongoing investment in the downtown district. Supporting progress in rural Kansas communities The Community Development Block Grant program helps rural Kansas communities complete projects that might otherwise be difficult to fund locally.

For Dickinson County, the four projects recognized through the 2025 award cycle highlight the wide range of needs these grants support — from preserving historic buildings to improving parks and maintaining essential utilities — all contributing to stronger communities across the county. A full list of 2025 Community Development Block Grant awards can be viewed on the Kansas Department of Commerce website: <https://www.kansas-commerce.gov/cdbg/awards/>  
**About Driving Dickinson County**  
Driving Dickinson County is the region’s economic development organization dedicated to strengthening business retention and expansion, supporting entrepreneurship, and fostering collaborative community growth throughout Dickinson County, Kansas.

**February 17, 2026 Abilene Chapter DAR Minutes**

The Abilene Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution met on Tuesday, February 17th at the Seelye Mansion. Hostesses were the Lenhart sisters, Shari, Lacinda and Leesa. At 11:30 they provided a light lunch using a President's theme. Leesa read a poem she wrote about the food and how it pertained to different Presidents. Such as cherries for George Washington, jelly beans for Ronald Regan, potato salad recipe was Dwight Eisenhower's and broccoli cornbread referred to George H.W. Bush. Prior to the meal, Marlene gave devotions.

Members present were: Susanne Anderson, Susan Bettles, Floy Bowers, Mary Jean Eisenhower, Karyl Ford, Lacinda Heller, Leesa Hettenbach, Marlene Howe, Shari Lenhart, Judy Lynn, Becky Polzella, Jackie Staab, Ann Strunk and Cassy Wilson. Guests were Lauren Houches, Janet McMurry, Dianne Paskow, Jamie Rascon, Tonya Sims and Marcy White. Each one of these guests has shown interest in becoming a DAR member and was invited by Leesa, Membership Chairman. An additional guest was Rhapsody Polzella.

Regent Wilson announced the following opening rituals: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Judy. Floy started the American's Creed with Ann leading the National Anthem, followed by Leesa reading the President General's Message.

The program was then given by Rhapsody, granddaughter of Becky, who portrayed Mamie Eisenhower, grandmother of Mary Jean. Cassy reconvened the meeting starting with America 250! and DAR School Chairman, Leesa, sharing her activity she did with the Enterprise Elementary School. She went into the classrooms to make America 250! Posters and do coloring sheets. For National Defense, Marlene shared on February 23, 1946, a US Flag raising on Iwo Jima took place, becoming a lasting symbol of courage and sacrifice. For her American Indian Moment, she said Indigenous persons are the only racial-ethnic group that must constantly "prove" who they are. Marlene's Conservation Moment included protecting the soil, when to prune, supporting wildlife, preparing planting beds and starting seeds.

Cassy, JAC Chairman, was excited to announce the Chapter had three state winners and they and their family's will be invited to the State Conference Saturday Youth Luncheon. For a Flag Moment, Shari said on June 14, 2026, a DAR and SAR Chapter are scheduled to dedicate two flag poles in TX, in honor of the America 250! Initiative.

Registrar, Judy, said she is continuing to work on new members and guests could reach out to her for membership applications. As secretary, Leesa, shared 2026 Wreaths Across American were BOGO free, so four were purchased, therefore the Chapter will get credit for eight. Cassy gave a treasurer's report.

She also reported the Chapter Master Report was submitted and thanked all members who helped.

Mary Susan Bettles, who lives south of Herington, was welcomed as a new member. Hostesses were thanked for the meal and delicious desert. Also, The Seelye Mansion was thanked for allowing the DAR to meet there and acknowledgement how the Seelye's were very involved with the Society.

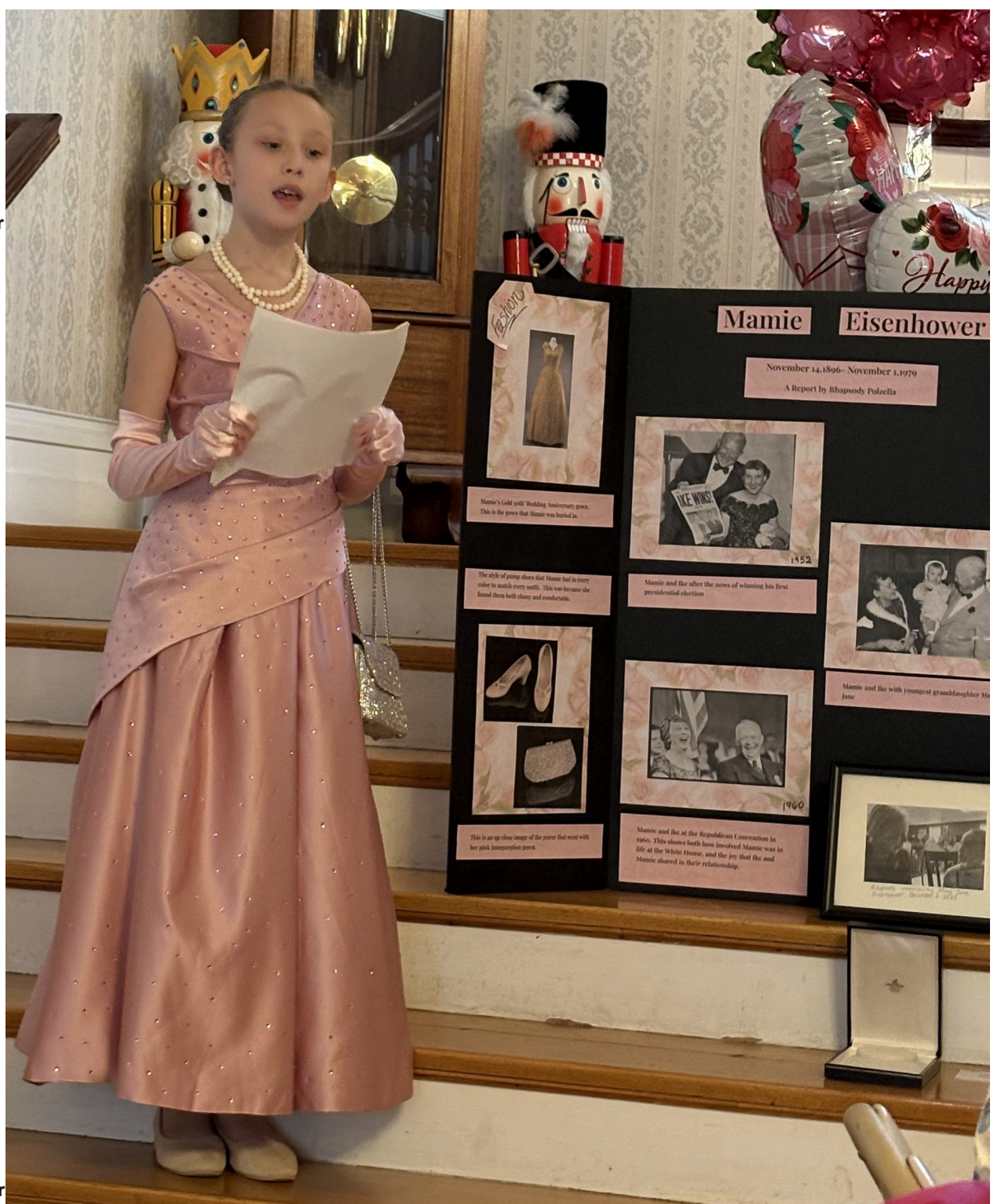
Leesa Hettenbach, Recording Secretary

**Picture on stairway L-R**

- Bottom Row: Cassy Wilson, Becky Polzella, Rhapsody Polzella, Mary Jean Eisenhower
- 2nd Row: Floy Bowers, Karyl Ford, Dianne Paskow, Leesa Hettenbach
- 3rd Row: Judy Lynn, Tayna Sims, Shari Lenhart, Marlene Howe
- 4th Row: Susan Bettles, Lacinda Heller, Janet McMurry, Marcy White
- 5th Row: Jamie Rascon, Susanne Anderson, Jackie Staab
- Top Row: Lauren Houches, Ann Strunk

**INFORMATION OF PICTURE OF RHAPSODY POLZELLA**

Rhapsody Polzella chose to portray Mamie Eisenhower for her 4th grade Famous Kansans school project at St. Mary's Grade School in Salina. She told about her life growing up and becoming a military and President's wife. Rhapsody did research and put information on posters for display, plus interviewed Mary Jean. For her dress, she chose a pick gown similar to the silk one Mamie wore to Ike's 1953 inauguration ball. They even added 2,000 sequences like the original formal wear. To finish off the outfit, she got to wear Mamie's personal pearl necklace.



**THANK YOU TO LEESA HETTENBACH FOR ALL YOUR YEARS OF SUPPORT AND SENDING US THE DAR MEETINGS.**

**Herington Commission Meeting Continued from pg. 7**

**Executive Session, Pursuant to the Personnel matters of employer-employee negotiations K.S.A. 78- 4319(b)(3) To discuss employer-employee negotiations to include the following, Governing Body, City Attorney, City Manager, option to call the Fire Chief, and option to call the City Clerk with the open 5 meeting to resume at 7:35pm, seconded by Commissioner Naylor. Motion carried 4-0. The regular meeting resumed with no action taken.**

**Executive Session – I move that the Herington City Commission recess into Executive Session, Pursuant to the Personnel matters of non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) in order to discuss personnel**

**matters to include the following the Governing Body, City Manager, City Attorney and option to call the Chief of Police with the open meeting to resume at 7:55pm, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 4-0. The regular meeting resumed with no action taken.**

**Executive Session – I move that the Herington City Commission recess into Executive Session, Pursuant to the Personnel matters of non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) in order to discuss personnel matters to include the following the Governing Body, City Attorney, option to call the City Manager, and the Option to call the Chief of Police with the open meeting to resume at 8:05pm, seconded by Commis-**

**sioner Mann. Motion carried 4-0. The regular meeting resumed with no action taken. City Manager Comments – SMH is working on preliminary engineering for shower house at lake. Cody is working with KDWP. Thatcher spoke with potential airport business owner. Working on exit items. Finalizing homestead closing. Mayor and Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Naylor – None. Commissioner Mann – Valuations from County in mail, property valuations going up. Make sure citizens are educated. Commissioner Bell – None. Mayor Gares – None. Adjournment – Mayor Gares made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 4-0.**

### “Spring into a NEW YOU!”

April 2, 2026 Emmanuel Church, Abilene, KS  
 April 2, 2026 is the annual LUNCHEON for ladies of all ages and their guests at the monthly Abilene Christian Women’s Connection. This is a special lunch with a main speaker and ladies can invite a guest to enjoy this friendly fellowship time. The Abilene Christian Women’s Connection is sponsored by Stonecroft Ministries. The special luncheon meeting will be Thursday, April 2, 2026 in the Emmanuel Church -  
 1300 N. Vine Street- Abilene - beginning at 11:30 AM

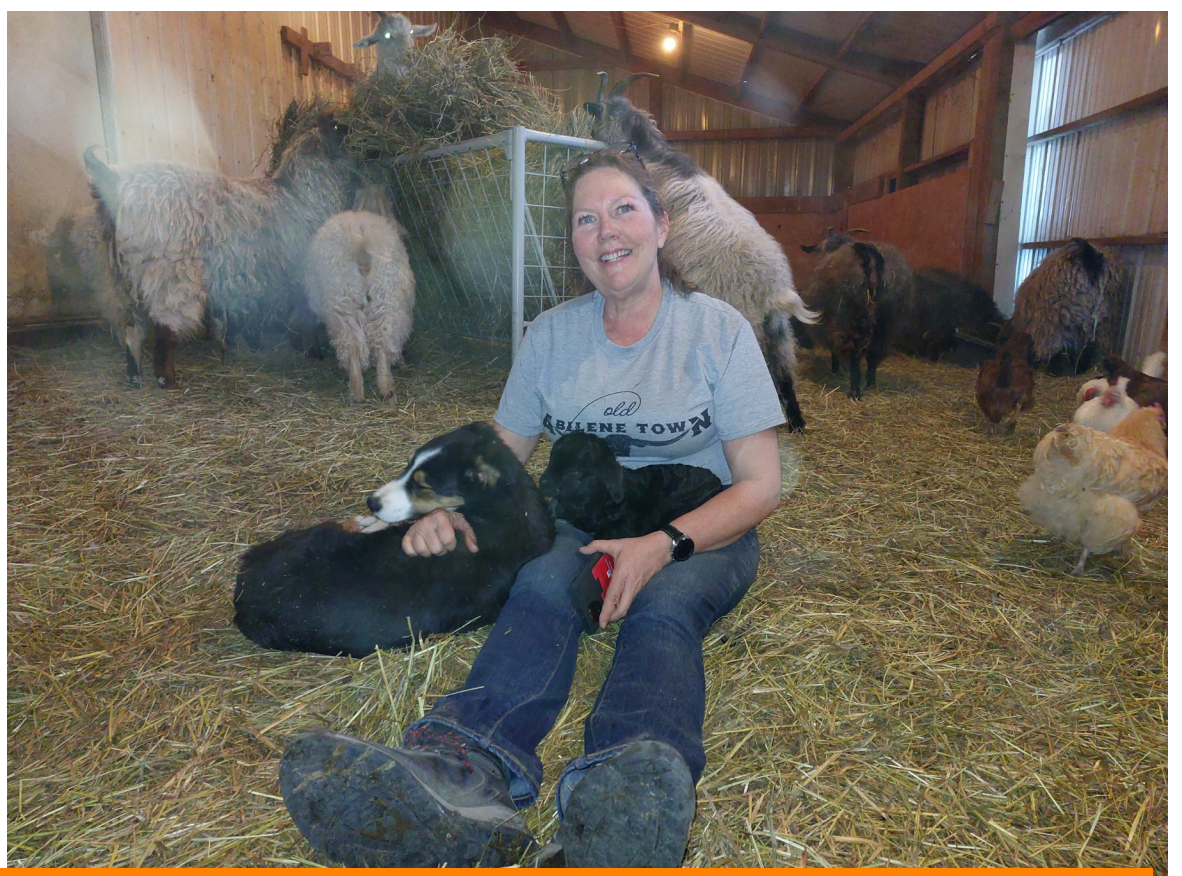
Gathering Music will be provided by Bev Richards from Hillsboro, and other special music will be featured also. Special Feature for this luncheon is Colleen and Mike McGee of Roe Tree Farm in Abilene. “Faith and Fiber” is the title of their talk. Colleen and Mike are both US Military Veterans and decided to retire in Dickinson County after successful careers in the military. Now experiencing new “adventures “in life and love.

Main Speaker/program will be Mr. Chad Young – Executive Director of the Salina Rescue Mission. Sharing with the group the continued mission of this organization and how they are making a difference in the lives of so many in our state.

Reservations are due by March 23 rd . Send in your \$15.00 - per person - to Janet Meyer at: 2688 Queen Drive, Chapman, KS 67431 NO LATER THAN March 23th . An earlier reservation date is due to this gathering being a catering meal, Reservations are needed. AND you can call Sharon Darling at 785-479-1002 or email: sdllaptop2021@gmail.com by March 23th for any additional information.

Cost for the catered meal is \$15.00 per person.

The Abilene Christian Women’s Coffee Connection is proud to have been meeting in Abilene for over 50 years. Bringing faith, fellowship and friendship to ladies of all ages.



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\*until funds are exhausted



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