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THE HILL CITY TIMES

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

\$1.00

Vol. 149, No. 38

Wednesday, March 4, 2025

Specials

Monday, March 9:

Chicken Enchiladas, Rice, Grape Salad, Oreo Fluff

Thursday, March 12:

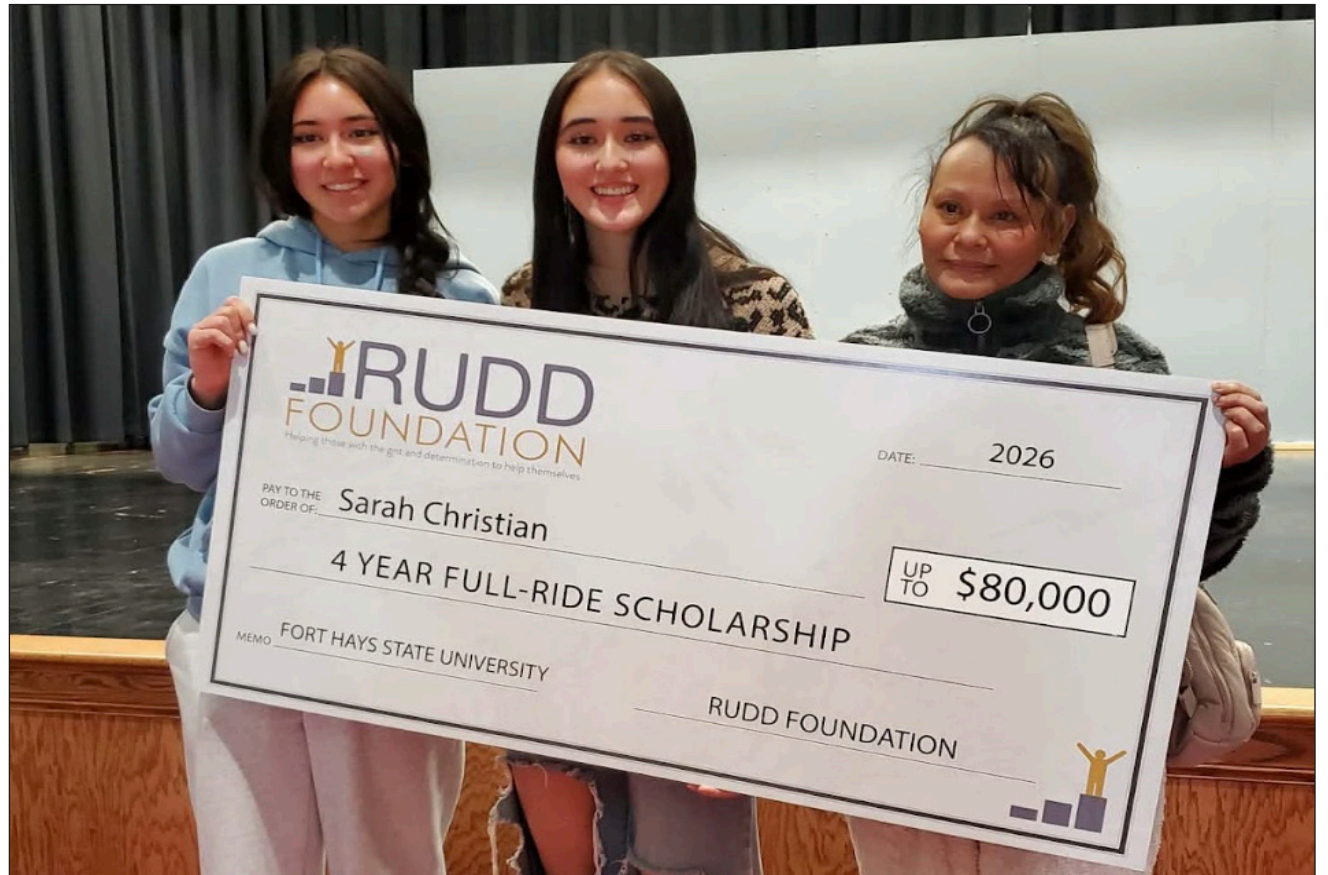
Southwest Chicken Wrap, Turkey Club Sandwich, Taco Salad, Oreo Fluff



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BIG Announcement from Hill City High School

Last week Hill City High School senior Sarah Christian was recognized as a recipient of the prestigious Rudd Scholarship. Sarah is one of only 50 students statewide to receive this life-changing, full-ride scholarship. This scholarship includes: tuition, books, housing, meals, and all other college expenses. This honor reflects Sarah's hard work, perseverance, and leadership. We are so proud of Sarah for all her accomplishments and the way she represents USD 281 Graham County.

Congratulations, Sarah Christian! USD 281 and the community is so proud of you! Pictured: MaryAnne, Sarah, and their mom



FHSU Women's Wrestling team member Josie Houk poses with her stuffed animal donation to Ana's Gift.

Ana's Gift

By FHSU Sociology Program

HAYS, Kan. – The Fort Hays State University Sociology Program recently partnered with Ana's Gift to support children in Ellis County experiencing difficult situations by collecting stuffed animals. This semester, the program invited the community to participate, and friends near and far showed up in a big way, delivering and mailing more than 150 stuffed animals to Rarick Hall, each one ready to offer a meaningful source of comfort.

Ana's Gift began when 16-year-old Ana Hertel set out with a heartfelt mission: to provide stuffed animals to children navigating challenging circumstances. Though Ana passed away shortly after starting the effort, her vision lives on through her parents, Lori and Stan Hertel, and Ana's Gift.

Each semester, Dr. Lori Hertel is a guest speaker in Dr. Kate McGonigal's Sociology of Death and Dying class at FHSU, sharing her story and the work of Ana's Gift. Students are invited to participate in the drive by donating a stuffed animal for children facing frightening situations, such as riding in an ambulance, to offer comfort in their most difficult moments.

"I'm struck by how many people took part in supporting Ana's Gift during this drive," McGonigal said. "It's truly a community effort with students, faculty, staff, and supporters beyond campus all coming together to carry forward Ana's mission."

Ana Hertel's mission of kindness continues to ripple through classrooms, campus hallways, and the broader Ellis County community. With each animal donated, Ana's legacy of spreading joy remains very much alive, and the FHSU Sociology Program is grateful for the continued support that makes the effort possible to comfort Ellis County children.

For more information on how to help Ellis County children in crisis through Ana's Gift, please contact Lori Hertel at 785-650-1344.



Graham Co. Hospital Recognized

Huge Congratulations!

We are so proud to share that Graham County Hospital has been named one of the 2026 Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals by The Chartis Center for Rural Health! This national recognition highlights the exceptional quality care, commitment to patients, and outstanding service our hospital provides to our community and beyond.

This prestigious award honors the top performing rural hospitals in the United States based on comprehensive performance metrics, including quality, patient outcomes, financial stability, and more. Being included among the Top 100 is a tremendous achievement and a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of every member of the GCH team.

Thank you to our staff, providers, and community supporters — this honor belongs to all of us!

BOGUE NEWS - LIZ VANLOENEN

There will be a benefit soup supper, two quilts, and a gun raffle for Cotler Johnson, the son of Cody Johnson and Tiffany Rohr, Saturday March 7th at 5 pm at the fair grounds.

There will be a Wildhorse Township meeting at the township hall Monday, March 23rd at 6 pm. Everyone in the township is asked to attend.

Bogue received 2" of snow Friday night, Feb 20th. I remember years and years ago when it snowed, Bogue had a lot of kids and they would all be out shoveling snow to make some money. Oh thoughts were the days.

Annette Wetter of Colby spent Friday and Saturday with her mother, Bobbie Holsman, Frank, and David.

The Cantata will be singing at the Hoxie Catholic Church Sunday, March 22nd at 4 pm, the Hill City Catholic Church on Sunday, March 29th, and the Dammar Catholic Church on Wednesday, April 1st.

Bruce VanLoenen call on Liz Monday afternoon.

Hannah Cameron of Hill City does a wonderful job of cleaning. Liz had her do a couple of jobs for her.

The Chosen is being presented every Sunday evening at 6:30 at the Bogue Fellowship Hall. There is a light meal before.



MAYB State Runner Ups

The Hill City Ringnecks finish as the 2026 State Runner-Up in the Boys 7th School Gold Division! A tremendous season and a standout performance this weekend. Congratulations boys and coaches!

NEWS & ADVERTISING
DEADLINE:
FRIDAYS @ NOON

Please email news, photos & advertising information to us at
thehillcitytimes@gmail.com



THE FRONTIER STAGE
 321 East Main Street, Hill City
 facebook.com/frontierstage

Due to changes in bookings that sometimes occur: Please check our website or digital sign display for current movie listings, or call 785-421-3347

THE HOUSEMAID

THRU

To Be Determined!

ANDON SKLENAR,
 ELIZABETH PERKINS

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

Jan. 10 TBD | Jan 11 TBD



Wrestlers celebrate with a hometown send off for State

HC Nutrition sent the Ringneck wrestlers off with a little extra boost for the big weekend. Friends, family, and the community showed up Thursday evening at the LMS building to line the sidewalk to cheer on these wrestlers for state! Wrestle tough, Go Ringnecks! Photo: Wrestlers with their teas from HC Nutrition

HILL CITY RINGNECKS
HOME OF THE RINGNECKS
JHS/HS ACTIVITIES

Thursday, March 5, 2026
 No Scheduled Activities

Friday, March 6, 2026
 NO SCHOOL

Monday, March 9, 2026
 Student Led PT Conferences
 4-7pm

Tuesday, March 10, 2026
 Student Led PT Conferences
 4-7pm

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
 No Scheduled Activities

Thursday, March 12, 2026
 No Scheduled Activities

Friday, March 13, 2026
 NO SCHOOL



Read for the record happening at HCGS

Mrs. Plante read "See Marcus Grow" to the kids in the gym. Mrs. Kowalke's 2nd grade class and Mrs. Pimlott's class colored pictures to go along with it. Everyone involved loved the book and coloring!

Hofstetter Homestead hosts 2 med students



"I had the pleasure of hosting 2 med students on the dairy today who wanted to see the process of milking and get their hands dirty. Nicole and Kim are here in western Kansas getting experience in rural hospitals before returning back home to Kansas City. They're pursuing some big dreams in the medical field and I have no doubt they will do great!

They got right in there and milked 2 of my cows and were genuinely interested in this way of life. They even went home with a sample I'm sure they'll love!

It was a huge honor to represent our raw milk industry and was a very positive experience. Thanks Nicole and Kim for coming out and learning so much today!"

(Pictures and article from Hofstetter Homestead)



THE HILL CITY TIMES

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

CHECK USD281.COM
 Schedule subject to change without notice

Happy 90th Birthday
Red Pfeifer's Come and Go

Saturday, March 28, 2026
 1 to 4 pm
 Cowboy Junction in Hill City

If you are unable to join and would like to send him a card, his address is
 202 S Casey, Hill City, KS 67642
 Shelly and Renee

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 410 N. Pomeroy Ave., Hill City, KS
 Second & Fourth Wednesdays: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
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 thehillcitytimes@gmail.com

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

Prairie Trails Golf Course News

2026 Men's Tuesday Night Golf Begins March 10

Prairie Trails Golf Course in Hill City is gearing up for a busy season as Men's Tuesday Night Golf kicks off on Tuesday, March 10 at 6 PM. Registration begins at 5:45 PM, followed by nine holes of scramble golf. Many businesses are sponsoring flag prizes throughout the 34 weeks of continuous play, ending on October 27. Sponsors include Jamboree Foods, Campbell's 24-Hour Automatic Car Wash, Six Pack Liquor LLC, Solutions North Bank, 2-Lane Liquor, FMH Insurance, B & E Garage, Pittman Plumbing Heating Air Conditioning, Hill City Pharmacy,

Nex-Tech, Outdoor Bank, and Nex-Tech Wireless. To become a sponsor in 2026, contact Bob Dombroski at 785-421-7023. Coach Donnie Newell's Hill City High School golf team will begin practice on March 3, aiming for a strong competitive season. A Junior Varsity Tournament will be held at PTGC on April 17, starting at 1 PM. The Northwest KS Senior Social is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, expecting 100 golfers from across Northwest Kansas. After 18 holes of scramble golf, a meal will be served. A workday is planned for Saturday

morning, March 28, with a list of tasks currently being compiled. Your PTGC annual dues are due by April 1, 2026. Please pay your membership at City Hall, Treasurer's Office, 205 N Pomeroy, Hill City Ks 67642. Make checks payable to Prairie Trails Golf Course. You will need to pay daily green fees in your annual fees are not paid by this date. Check out the PTGC web page at <https://prairietrailsgolf.wixsite.com/hillcity> and Facebook: Hill City Prairie Trails Golf Course. C'mon out and enjoy our diamond in the rough through 2026!



- | | |
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| <p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Morland, Kansas
Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5 P.M., Sundays
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>BOGUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Bogue, Kansas
Worship: 9 A.M. Sundays
Sunday School: 10 A.M.</p> <p>CHRISTIAN CHURCH
122 N. Pomeroy, Hill City
Worship: 9 A.M. and Sunday School: 10:15 A.M.</p> <p>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
206 N. Middle, Hill City
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:35 A.M., Sun., 6 P.M., Sun. 7 P.M., Wed.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Nicodemus, Kansas
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Church: 11 A.M.
Bible Study: Wed., 5:30 P.M.</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
223 N. 4th Ave., Hill City
Worship: 9 A.M. & Coffee Fellowship following.</p> <p>FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST
8th and Walnut, Hill City
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. Sun.
Youth Program: 6 P.M. Sun.</p> <p>GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
11th and Hill, Hill City
Worship: 4 P.M. Sunday
Bible Study: 3 p.m. Sunday</p> <p>H₂O CHURCH.TV
305 N. Pomeroy, Hill City
5:00 p.m.
Praise - Worship - Message</p> <p>HILL CITY CHURCH OF GOD
Third and Cedar, Hill City
Worship: 10:30 A.M.</p> <p>HILL CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
118 N. 4th Ave., Hill City
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> | <p>Worship: 10:45 A.M.</p> <p>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
10 N. 10th Ave., Hill City
Masses: 6 P.M., Saturdays; 11 A.M. Sundays</p> <p>PRAIRIE HOME UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
12 miles south, 1/4 mile East of Hill City on "E" Rd.
Worship: 9:15 A.M.</p> <p>RED LINE CHURCH OF GOD
3804 H Rd., Palco, Kansas
Worship: 8:45 A.M.
Fellowship: 10 A.M.
Sunday School: 10:30 A.M.
Bible Study: 7 P.M. Wed.</p> <p>ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
Damar, Kansas
Mass: 9 A.M., Sundays</p> <p>THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF GOD
519 N. East, Hill City
Sunday Worship: 10 A.M.
Family Training Hour: 7 P.M., Wednesday</p> <p>MORLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Worship: 6 P.M., Sunday
Bible Study: 5 P.M., Sunday</p> <p>UNITED METHODIST
Palco, Kansas
Worship/Service: 9 A.M.
Fellowship Time: 10 A.M.</p> <p>UNITED PARISH OF LENORA
Worship: 10:30 A.M.
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST
6.5 miles south of Morland, Ks.
Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.
Worship: 10:50 A.M.</p> <p>AWANA program: 5-7 P.M. Wed. Men's Prayer, 7 A.M. Wed. Youth Group, 7 P.M. Bible Study in Homes, 7 P.M. Wednesdays
3rd Sunday Fellowship Dinner</p> |
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Kindergarteners had a royal ball



The kindergarten students had a royal ball to celebrate finishing our Royal Monarch unit in our new CKLA reading curriculum! Thank you to Hill City Grade School PTO, 2C Farmstore, and Unicorn Floral and Gift for helping sponsor this activity!



Graham County Commission Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026

Commissioner Irby called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with the flag salute with Commissioner Irby, Commissioner Nelson, Commissioner Crouch, County Clerk Kendra Robinson and Graham County Hospital CEO Jonathan Gleason all present.

Graham County Hospital CEO, Jonathan Gleason reported that the hospital has remained very busy, noting a recent spike in patient census that placed additional strain on staff. Despite the increased workload, employees continued to perform well and ensured all patient needs were met. Jonathan Gleason reported that the hospital experienced a COVID-19 outbreak in January; however, the situation has since been contained and enhanced precautions, including masking requirements, are no longer in place. He also informed the Board that the hospital has received approval from the State Fire Marshal on its corrective action plan. As a result, they will be moving forward with relocating the generator and will also be exploring the replacement of the existing unit with a new generator. Jonathan Gleason reported that the hospital is preparing for its annual financial audit, as well as a one-time completion audit related to the new clinic project. He also noted that he continues to monitor available grant opportunities for the hospital. Commissioner Irby asked whether Jonathan would be open to discussing transfer procedures and coordination between paramedics and hospital staff to ensure all parties remain aligned. Jonathan indicated he would be open to that discussion.

New Business, Part 1

County Clerk Kendra Robinson presented the Board with a plaque from KWORCC recognizing Graham County for its 2024 Exceptional Loss Ratio. She also informed the Commissioners that she had received an invitation to the Kansas Association of Counties meeting in Colby on April 15 and requested that the Commissioners advise her of their attendance so she could RSVP on behalf of the County. Commissioner Nelson confirmed he would attend, while Commissioners Irby and Crouch stated they would follow up with

her once they had determined their availability.

Graham County Road & Bridge Supervisor, Wayne Pfeifer

Wayne reported that a crew was laying shale on 380th Road, and additional crews were scheduled to begin blading operations if wind conditions allowed. Wayne asked the Board if they had received any road complaints, and the Commissioners stated they had not received any at this time. Commissioner Irby confirmed that the Road & Bridge secretary position would be transitioning to the Clerk's Office and acknowledged that the change had not been communicated to Wayne in advance, explaining that the process had been requested to be handled in that manner. Wayne expressed concern regarding the decision, asking why it was believed that Road & Bridge no longer required a secretary. He stated that without administrative support, the future supervisor may be required to spend more time in the office, potentially pulling an equipment operator away from field operations. Wayne also informed the Board that both he and Bill Miller are planning to retire in June 2026. Wayne asked the Board if they had received any additional information regarding a CDL instructor or the process for his new hire to obtain a CDL. Commissioner Nelson contacted the DMV in Phillipsburg, Kansas, to inquire about the requirements. The DMV representative advised that the employee would first need to visit a state licensing office to complete the written test and obtain a learner's permit. The employee would then be required to complete an approved CDL training course before returning to a DMV location to complete the driving examination. The representative also noted that the County could consider having a current employee who has held a CDL for at least two years become a certified training provider to conduct instruction onsite. She provided the Board with a website for additional information on certification and training requirements. Wayne informed the Board that the department's current printers are obsolete and replacement parts are no longer available. He reported meeting with Tri-Central regarding a replacement printer, with an estimated cost of \$2,400. The Board agreed the purchase was

necessary and approved Wayne to proceed with acquiring the new printer.

New Business, Part 2

Clerk Robinson presented the Commissioners with two occupational licenses and two retail liquor licenses for Chairman signature for Cowboy Junction. Commissioner Irby reviewed and signed the licenses. Clerk Robinson also presented two abatement orders with a total valuation reduction of \$6,527 and a total tax amount of \$1,157.52. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the two abatement orders. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Clerk Robinson presented one refund order with a total valuation reduction of \$1,470 and a total refund amount of \$223.14. Commissioner Irby made a motion to approve the refund order. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners reviewed and signed accounts payable checks and vouchers. Chairman Irby reviewed and signed the abstracts of the Commissioner meeting minutes dated January 20, 2026, and February 3, 2026.

Graham County EMS/Fire Director, Mickie Helberg

Mickie provided the Commissioners with a handout outlining Graham County EMS run totals, broken down by category, and explained the meaning of each run type. Commissioner Irby informed Mickie that he had spoken with Jonathan at the hospital about scheduling another meeting to ensure all parties remain aligned on processes and coordination.

New Business, Part 3

Commissioner Irby informed the Board that he plans to bring the OWL system forward for discussion at next week's meeting, at which time the Commissioners will consider whether to reinstate it. Graham County Appraiser, Rachelle Standley

County Appraiser Rachelle Standley reported that her office will be mailing real estate valuation notices on Friday, February 27. She provided the Board with an overview of the Appraiser's Office duties and explained that the office receives a compliance scorecard twice per year measuring adherence to state requirements. On the most recent report, the office scored 93.3 out of 93.3

See "COMMISSION" Pg 6

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HILL CITY NUTRITION SITE

Welcome in House Participants & Carry-Out

Friday, March 6: Tuna Noodle Casserole, Peas & Carrots, Bread, Fruit Cobbler

Monday, March 9: Chicken Patty Sandwich, California Blend Vegetables, Bun, Emerald Pears, Cookie

Tuesday, March 10: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Brussel Sprouts, Bread, Peaches

Wednesday, March 11: Chicken Pasta Primavera, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Gelatin w/Fruit

Thursday, March 12: Ground Beef Veg Soup, Crackers, Mandarin Oranges, Frosted Cake

Menu Subject to Change
Meal \$4 • Guests under 60 \$7

SNAP Benefits (previously known as food stamps) can be used to contribute towards the meal. If you need help applying for SNAP, call our office at 1-800-432-7422.

- Top 10 checked out books for 2025 at the Graham Co. Public Library**
- | | |
|---|--|
| 10. All the Colors of the Dark - Chris Whitaker | McFadden |
| 9. The Housemaid's Secret - Freida McFadden | 5. The Tenant - Freida McFadden |
| 8. The Perfect Son - Freida McFadden | 4. Rage - Linda Castillo |
| 7. The Jackal's Mistress - Chris Bohjalian | 3. Counting Miracles - Nicholas Sparks |
| 6. The Housemaid - Freida | 2. The Crash - Freida McFadden |
| | 1. Battle Mountain - C.J. Box |

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-informed 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 isolation. Pain, fatigue, dizziness and muscle tension often have emotional and neurological components. When providers acknowledge this mind-body connection, patients feel seen rather than dismissed. They're more likely to share concerns, ask questions and participate actively in their care. This collaboration strengthens the therapeutic alliance, which research consistently links to better health outcomes across disciplines.

Trauma-informed practice is not a specialty; it's a skillset. It requires curiosity, humility and a willingness to adapt. It asks clinicians to be mindful of their tone, body language and pace. It reminds us that healing happens in relationships, and that every interaction, every moment of touch, every explanation, and every pause can either reinforce safety or erode it.

When we approach patients with the assumption that their bodies carry stories we cannot see, we create conditions where trust can grow. And when trust grows, so does the capacity for healing.

Patti Berg-Poppe, MPT, Ph.D., is a physical therapist, professor, and Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of South Dakota. She has published on trauma-informed care, including work examining how adverse childhood experiences influence patient engagement and how trauma-aware practices can strengthen therapeutic relationships. Her writing and teaching emphasize the impor-

tance of trust, safety and respectful communication in all health care interactions. Shana Cerny, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, is an occupational therapist and associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Her research, service and teaching interests revolve around trauma-informed care, including publication of practice guidelines for trauma-informed occupational therapy, interventions for individuals after exploitation, and the effectiveness of a trauma-informed care curriculum for multi-disciplinary care providers. She is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention® Educator and co-creator of the Child & Adult Advocacy Studies graduate certificate at the University of South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

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

miliar 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.

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



2023 Ford F350 Crew Cab XLT 4X4, White w/ Medium Slate Cloth, 6.7L Turbo Diesel, Trailer Brake Controller, 3.31 E-lock Axle, Uppifter Switches, 73K Miles #05418 **\$48,850**

2014 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4WD, Oxford White w/ Gray Leather, 5.0L V-8, Fx4, Navigation, Tailgate Step, Bedliner, Remote Start, Rear View Camera, 178K Miles #07517 **\$10,850**

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

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

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

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

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

2016 Ford F150 XLT Sport Supercrew, Black w/ Black/Red Cloth, 3.5 V6 Eco Boost, Special Edition XLT Sport, 20" Premium Dark Tarnished Wheels, 104K Miles #40077 **\$25,850**

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

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

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

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

2022 Ford F150 Super Crew 4X4, Anti-matter Blue - Tu-Tone w/ Baja Tan Leather, 3.5L Eco Boost, 3.31 E Locking Rear Axle, 6" Bright Cab Steps, 45K Miles #60488 **Fresh Arrival**

2019 JEEP Cherokee Limited, Maroon w/Gray Leather, 3.2L V6, Heated & Ventilated Seats, Navigation w/8.4" Display, Technology Group, Adaptive Cruise Control, Luxury Group, 96K Miles #81453 **\$15,850**

2022 Ram 2500 Mega Cab Big Horn, Silver Metallic w/ Black & Diesel Grey Premium Cloth, 6.7L I-6 Cummins Diesel, Heated Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 62K Miles #62429 **\$48,850**

2023 Ford F150 Supercrew Limited 4WD, Black w/Admiral Blue Leather, Twin Panel Moonroof, Heated/Ventilated Front Seats, Heated Back Seats, Adaptive Cruise, 69K Miles #88513 **\$48,850**

2021 Ram 2500 4dr 4X4 Mega Cab, Pearl White w/ Tan & Brown Leather, 6.7L 6 Cylinder Cummins Diesel, Tow Technology Package, Heated/Cooled Seats, 64K Miles #92940 **\$53,850**

2021 GMC Acadia AT4 AWD, Gray w/Black Leather, 3.6L V-6, Heated Steering Wheel, Heated/Cooled Seats, Power Steering/Tilt/Telescope, 71K Miles #93576 **\$23,850**

Two Day March Consignment Auction

Tues. March 24th & Wed. March 25th 2026

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Advertising Deadline for the Auction is **FRIDAY, MARCH 6th**

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(No Miscellaneous items accepted for this auction)

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THE HILL CITY TIMES

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TO ADVERTISE: The Hill City Times offers retail and classified advertising. We can build an ad campaign to fit your budget and reach our loyal readership. Please email thehillcitytimes@gmail.com, call the Hill City office, 785 524 4200, for your advertising needs.

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Dr. Raquelle Bainter is at the Hill City Chiropractic Center
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Never a Dull Moment



Never a dull moment as a federal wildlife rehabilitator! This Great Horned Owllet was rescued on the ground by a landowner near Deerfield, KS. The landowner was able to transport this owl to Project Wildlife in Hays so immediate professional care could be started.

A new volunteer couple from Plainville (pictured here) picked up the owl in Hays and transported him/her here for further care. I observed an issue with one leg/balance that needed X-rays to help access the possible cause.

I made a trip to Central Vet Services in Stockton with the owl for X-rays and a vet exam. I am currently waiting for these X-rays to be viewed by Operation Wildlife to decide on the course of action.

Please consider donating to our Mission since our funds are very low. This means less wildlife receiving our help with Spring approaching.

State and Federal licensed wildlife Rehabilitators in Kansas receive no funding from the State or Federal Agencies.

See Facebook to donate or send monetary funds to:
 Carries Rehab Critters
 501(c)(3) nonprofit all volunteer organization
 620 N. 5th
 Hill City, KS 67642



Springtime Bunnies

Bunny Love... we are ready for Spring!! Jack Creek Salvage wants to give a big thank you to those that attended the March 1st craft class. Everyone did such a beautiful job and showed your creativity!



NOTICE OF SUIT

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

Millsap & Singer, LLC
8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 180
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 339-9132
(913) 339-9045 (fax)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

SWBC Mortgage Corporation) Case No. GH-2025-CV-000011
)
Plaintiff,) Court No.
)
vs.) Title to Real Estate Involved
)
Clementine Bates, and James E. Bates, et al.,)
) Pursuant to K.S.A. §60
Defendants)

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Graham County, Kansas by SWBC Mortgage Corporation, praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:

ALL OF BLOCK THIRTY-EIGHT (38), CITY OF NICODEMUS, GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS. Parcel ID No. 0331110102038001000. Commonly known as 505 Monroe Ave., Bogue, KS 67625 ("the Property") MS 229743

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before April 14, 2026 in the District Court of Graham County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC

By:
Dwayne A. Duncan, #27533
dduncan@msfirm.com
612 Spirit Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
(636) 537-0067 (fax)
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
MS 229743.462177 KJFC

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.



MS File No. 229743.462177 KJFC

Legal Notice

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

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

TO: SATCHELL CREEK PETROLEUM, LLC

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

Worcester Oil and Gas Lease

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

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

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

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

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

Dated this 18th day of February 2026.

Submitted By:

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

VS CASE NO. GH-2026-CV-000002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Got News?

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

Birthday Announcements

Free with a picture for 100 years or older for residents of Graham County. For 100th birthdays for non-residents with a tie to the area, the article is free. Free announcements are available for Graham County resident 75 and older. Photos can be submitted for \$25.

Anniversary Announcements

Free with one photo for 50 years and over for Graham County residents or couples with children in Graham County. Free announcements, with no photo, are available 25, 30, 40 and 45 years. Announcements can include couple's name, residence, date and place of marriage, occupations, children/grandchildren, and reception information (if applicable). Additional photos can be submitted for \$25.



Wedding Announcements

Free for Graham County residents or couples with parents in Graham County with the following information: name of bride and groom, residence, parents and residence, bridal party, where and when the wedding took place, honeymoon location and where the couple resides after wedding. Free announcements must be submitted to our office before their one year anniversary. A photo may be added for \$25.

Engagement Announcements

Free for residents of Graham County or couples with parents in Graham County with the following information: name of prospective bride and groom with residence, their parents and residence, when/where the wedding is planned, couples' schooling and occupations. Free announcement must be submitted to our office before their wedding. A photo may be added for \$25.

Birth Announcements

Free for parents and/or grandparents in Graham County with the following information: baby's name, weight, length, place of birth and date, parents name and residence, siblings, grandparents and residences, great grandparents and residences) please specify if they are deceased). A photo may be added for \$25.

Letters to the Editor

The Hill City Times, Graham County is open to views from residents within the county. Letters to the Editor must include complete name, signature, address and phone number. Name and town will only be published in the newspaper. Free letters are limited to approximately 250 words. If a letter is more than 250 words, it is subject to editing and the full versions will be posted online. They may also be published in the paper at the editor's discretion. If the word count exceeds 250 words, the letter can be published as a paid advertisement (subject to editorial approval). Political letters are also considered paid advertisements.

Calendar Entries

Any event from Graham County which is free or by free will donation may be listed in the Times calendar. Those events are also listed in the Essential Calendar on the website. Deadline is 5 pm Friday.

Club Notes

Clubs and organizations are welcome to submit items. We publish these for free if the clubs regularly meet within Graham County.

Business Briefs

If a business is located within Graham County, or owned by a resident of Graham County submissions such as new hires, awards, etc. may be submitted for consideration. Note, this does not include sales, services or other items considered advertising.

Sports Items

We are happy to publish sports items from around the county. Don't forget your college student-athletes! Open to all Graham County residents -- including proud grandpa and grandmas!

Academic Items

We publish awards and achievements from our students around the county. This can be any level from elementary school through college.

Your item not listed?

Just give us a call or an email and tell us what you'd like published -- 785-524-4200 - or Thehillcitytimes@gmail.com

Submit editorial content by email to Thehillcitytimes@gmail.com

THE HILL CITY TIMES

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



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

