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Check out our spring Nex-Tech Wireless Supporting Cast feature on Herington's Butch Schlesener, a slowpitch softball Hall of Famer and Kansas officiating legend. After five decades on the hardwood, Butch Schlesener's impact on Kansas basketball extends far beyond the games he officiated.

Schlesener has spent 50 years as a basketball official, including 43 registered with the Kansas State High School Activities Association. Over that time, he built a reputation not just for knowing the rules, but for how he treated the people within the game.

"He's someone who truly loves the game—not just the rules, but the people in it," his daughter, Cisti Hensley, said.

That approach defined his career. Schlesener became known for taking time to talk with players, offering corrections with respect, and encouraging them to improve. His focus remained on helping the game be played the right way while recognizing the athletes behind the uniforms.

Throughout his career, he officiated multiple state tournament games and regularly worked alongside respected officials such as David Johnson, Josh Tanking and James Riffel. His preparation and dedication left a lasting impression on those he worked with.

"I would say that Butch was a great mentor to me during my career and I wouldn't have been near the official I was without his mentorship," Johnson said. "Nobody spent more time studying the rule book and he was always prepared for any situation that may arise during a game." Schlesener's contributions to athletics extend beyond basketball. He was inducted into the Midwest Slowpitch Softball Hall of Fame in 2016, following in the footsteps of his father, Harlan, a fastpitch softball hall of famer. His involvement in softball created connections across communities, where, as Johnson noted, "You couldn't go anywhere without Butch knowing someone he had played softball with or against over the years."

Even as he has reduced his officiating schedule in recent years, Schlesener remains a presence at games, often supporting fellow officials and cheering on his granddaughter at Rural Vista.

In 2023, he was honored by KSHSAA for his years of service, a fitting recognition for a dedicated career.

"Not only is he a great official, he is an even better person," Johnson said. "No one cares more about calling a perfect game than Butch, even if that isn't realistic."

From officials to administrators to volunteers and more, help Kansas Pregame and Nex-Tech Wireless recognize the generous individuals who make high school athletics a reality through countless behind-the-scenes jobs. DM us nominees with details about their support of athletics in Kansas communities.

The 2026 Chapman Prom King and Queen, Aiden Hall and Clara Gfeller. (Courtesy of USD 473)



Congratulations to our 2026 Solomon Prom Queen Kilyne and Prom King Matthias!! (Courtesy of USD 393)

**Contact Information: Dickinson County News-Times**  
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**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

**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

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

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  
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 church added!



Rev. Connie D. Wooldridge  
 Chapman United Methodist Church

## PASTOR'S CORNER

It is spring, and our yard is teeming with adorable little creatures. Watching the birds, bunnies, and squirrels provides us with great entertainment. Sometimes it is even more fun to watch our indoor animals watch the critters outdoors. When a bird or bunny patters around our patio, one of our cats will stop at the window and stay very still except for the end of her tail. In just a moment the other cat and the dog are lined up at the window's edge focused just as intently. Of course, we look away from the television and watch our cute little pets. Sometimes the dog lets out a squeaky bark which startles the cats and they respond with a synchronized leap into the air. This startles the critter outside the window and away it hops or flies. We humans are much the same. Someone glimpses something interesting and then we are all gawking. I don't know if our dog and cats are thinking the same things as they observe life on the other side of the

## QUILTED MARVELS

window; but I know we humans often see things from a very particular perspective and we cannot be persuaded to check out a different point of view. Now, with the electronic media through which we see the world, we are categorized. The internet works by feeding us only information from the perspective we have observed in prior situations and our polarization begins. We start to think that we see the world is the only way to see the world. We look at the same scene and twitch our proverbial tails in unison. Sometimes, we are shocked by someone with a different point of view who speaks out. We are quick to react with fear, or anger. I think it would benefit us all to step out of our usual spot and take another look. What if we visited a different website or listened to a different podcast? What if we give ourselves permission to read books that rattle our thinking and learn how to wrestle with the material? What if we truly listen to the girl or guy who sees life differently than we do? I believe we will find that none of us has complete truth but as we use our gift of conversation, listening as well as speaking, we will become more individually and communally more than we ever imagined.



## THIS DAY - IN - THE HERINGTON TIMES

Mark Will  
 DCNT Columnist

125 years ago - 1901  
**DON'T TIE COWS ON THE SIDEWALKS** - The city marshal desires to call attention to the ordinance providing a fine for anyone who rides or drives over any of the sidewalks of the city. Draymen and liverymen are not always as particular as they might be. Another trouble arises from people picketing cows and horses where they can ruin the sidewalks. This is also prohibited by ordinance and if anyone gets snapped up and fined for either of the above-named offenses, don't blame the marshal, for the law points out his duty and he proposes to carry it out to the letter.

100 years ago - 1926  
**OLD FIDDLERS TUNING UP** - Special invitations were sent Saturday to twenty-five or thirty old fiddlers to take part in the Old Fiddlers contest which will be held at 10:30 Saturday morning on a platform erected on Broadway. A number of the old timers have already accepted the invitation. An effort is also being made to have some clog dancers perform while the contest is going on. A free lunch will be given in the Nerenberg building too. The old fiddlers contest and free lunch are put on by the Chamber of Commerce for Herington's friends in the trade territory.

75 years ago - 1951  
**TRUCK FALLS THROUGH BRIDGE NEAR LATIMER** - A Farmers Union Truck from Topeka crashed through a bridge one and one-half mile west of Latimer Monday. County Engineer Don

## FATAL CAR ACCIDENTS ON US-56

Meath reports that the 50-foot-long structure was virtually demolished. The tractor made it across the bridge onto solid ground. However, the trailer went through the bridge and was damaged badly. 50 years ago - 1976

**MUSEUM GRAND OPENING** - The Herington Museum, which has turned from a dream into reality in less than a year, will be the focal point of special activities Saturday, sponsored by the Tri-County Historical Society. Scheduled are a "Grand Opening" of the museum in the basement of the Herington Post Office and then a Charter Night dinner program at the Masonic Temple. There will be no admission charge for the museum. Adding to the event will be folk music, special antique displays and free refreshments. More than 1100 square feet of floor space in the post office basement is being utilized under a lease agreement with the General Administration. The Historical Society began leasing the space last July and already two rooms have nearly been filled with displays, fixtures and supplies. It is hoped that a permanent museum of some type can be constructed later. Master of ceremonies for the dinner will be George Kohls with dinner served by the Order of Eastern Star. Theodore Gibson will present a slide program and a taped interview with Clifford Herington, a descendant of M. D. Herington. Special entertainment in the evening will be by Henry Ruppel, Fred Brunner and Jacob Brunner.

Herington Historical Society & Museum, 800 S. Broadway. Hours: 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. - markcwill1963@gmail.com

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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# VIEW FROM THE HILL- Scott Hill

## Difference of Opinion Legislature Overrides 20 Vetoes

Our two-party system of government is replete with checks and balances. The administrative and legislative components each have distinct powers. The Governor can veto legislation that has been passed after careful consideration by 165 legislators. The legislature, which is given the ability to make laws by the Constitution, has the last say. If the legislature can muster a 2/3 majority of both the House and the Senate, the vetoed law stands. Last week this process happened after the Governor vetoed 28 bills. The vetoed legislation and the results of the override process are as follows:

- SB 30: Provides for changes to occupational licenses authorized by the Legislature. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- SB 244: Directs that drivers licenses and bathrooms will identify by the birth sex of the individual. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- SB 254: Prevents illegal aliens from receiving any state or local public benefits including college tuition. Vetoed and the veto was sustained.
- SB 361: Enrolls Kansas in the educational provisions adopted by the Federal government to give tax credits to individuals who donate to private and public schools. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- SB 368: Enables a tax credit for individuals who contribute to a health care sharing ministry. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- SB 375: Enacts transparency requirements to proxy advisors. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- SB 391: Prohibits local units of government from requiring landlords to participate in housing assistance programs. Vetoed and

## Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.

- SB 462: Prevents local units of government from filing contingency-based lawsuits. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2004: Requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to share information with the Federal Government. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2329: Strengthens protections for children in the foster care system by removing violent minors. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2333: Enacts the KIRK free speech act. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2346: Establishes Kansas sports tourism grants for local units of government. Vetoed by the Governor after the legislature had adjourned.
- HB 2372: Enables cooperation with Federal officials by local sheriffs' offices and jails. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2437: Designed to clean up voter registration records. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2468: Contains SB361 as well as a similar Kansas operated tax credit. Vetoed by the Governor and the veto was sustained.
- HB 2521: Provides lawsuit protection for agencies that coordinate foster care placements. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2569: Requires all legal actions challenging the constitutionality of an election statute to be brought in Shawnee County. Vetoed by the Governor and the veto was sustained.
- HB 2587: Authorizes a licensed private psychiatric hospital to maintain an emergency stock of pharmaceuticals. Vetoed By the Governor and sustained.
- HB 2593: Requires that political subdivi-

- sions hold open meetings to discuss contingency-based contracts. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2603: Prohibits regulation of battery-charged security fences by municipalities. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2626: Includes several veteran proposals including employment preferences. Overridden by the Governor and the veto was sustained.
- HB 2635: Protects the rights of Pregnancy Resource Centers to operate. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2651: Limits the use of summons for misdemeanor crimes and restricts the ability to be released on their own recognition. Vetoed and sustained.
- HB 2719: Changes the procedure for the adoption of state regulations and rules. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2727: Provides a streamlined process with limited recovery for suits brought after violations of the Woman's-Right-to-Know Act. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2731: Requires the DCF to cooperate with the Inspector General investigating fraud accusations. Vetoed and Overridden by the Legislature. I voted aye.
- HB 2745: Provides a protest mechanism when revenue neutral is exceeded on property tax. Vetoed by the Governor and the veto was sustained.

This list does not include recently passed legislation. If any of these bills are of interest to you, feel free to contact me for more explanation of bill content or my vote. In total about 200 pieces of new legislation were passed. It is always my desire that this new legislation makes our state a better place.

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**Monday, April 27:** Chef Salad w/Turkey, Crackers, Pickled Beets, Mixed Berries, Cookie

**Tuesday, April 28:** Lasagna, Italian Blend Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Applesauce, Garlic Bread

**Wednesday, April 29:** Chicken Tenders, Potato Wedges, Carrots, Peach Crisp, Bread

**Thursday, April 30:** Roast Beef / Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Ambrosia, Wheat Roll

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**Monday, April 27:** Chicken Strips, Tator Tots, Peas & Carrots, Fruit, Roll, Milk

**Tuesday, April 28:** Lasagna, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Fruit, Milk

**Wednesday, April 29:** Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit, Roll, Milk

**Thursday, April 30:** Sweet & Sour Chicken over Rice, Vegetables, Fruit, Roll

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**WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

**A**

**B**

Answers:  
1. Writing missing from the cast. 2. Milk on the table. 3. An extra pillow on the couch. 4. Missing plant in window.

### Diaper Depot Expands Services into Dickinson County Through New Partnership

[TOPEKA, KS] — Community Action, Inc. is proud to announce the expansion of its Diaper Depot program into Dickinson County through a new partnership with Neighbor to Neighbor Abilene.

Previously serving families in Shawnee County, Diaper Depot will now extend services into Dickinson County, increasing access to essential resources for families with young children across the region.

Through this pilot initiative, eligible families with children from birth to age three can receive up to 50 free diapers per month. This expansion is a critical step in addressing diaper need, an often overlooked hardship that impacts the health, well-being, and dignity of both children and caregivers.

“This partnership allows us to expand beyond Shawnee County and reach more families who need support,” said Alexandra Drake, Director of Family and Community Outcomes. “By working alongside Neighbor to Neighbor Abilene, we are strengthening our ability to meet basic needs and connect families to additional resources.”

In a joint statement from Neighbor to Neighbor Abilene staff, they shared, “We are incredibly grateful to partner with Community Action through the Diaper Depot program. Every week, we meet parents who are doing everything they can to care for their children, yet still face the impossible choice of how to afford basic essentials like diapers. We’ve seen firsthand just how great the need is. While we’ve been able to offer a few diapers to help families get through a day or two, it’s never felt like enough. No parent should have to worry about keeping their child clean, dry, and healthy. This partnership changes that. It allows us to provide real, meaningful support to families in Dickinson County when they need it most.”

Diaper Depot has been a vital support for families in Shawnee County, and this collaboration ensures that families in Dickinson County now have similar access to consistent diaper assistance. As part of the pilot, both organizations will collaborate on enrollment, distribution, and ongoing program evaluation to ensure long-term success.

Enrollment is now open for eligible families in both Shawnee and Dickinson counties. Families interested in participating can visit [wefightpoverty.org](http://wefightpoverty.org) for more information.

**About Community Action, Inc.**  
Community Action, Inc. works to reduce poverty and strengthen communities by providing essential services and support to individuals and families.

**About Neighbor to Neighbor**  
Neighbor to Neighbor connects individuals and families to resources that promote stability, self-sufficiency, and long-term success.

Storm season is here. Get ready now to weather it well. Vicki Schmidt, Kansas Insurance Commissioner

As Insurance Commissioner, the Department staff and I have deployed to disasters all over the state. In these situations, we see people on their worst days and encounter circumstances I hope most Kansans never have to experience.

One situation I will never forget was after the Andover tornado when a man whose entire home had been destroyed was struggling to breathe. Somewhere amidst the rubble, his oxygen tank was buried, and he did not have a backup. He had reached out to the medical supply company several times but was getting the runaround. I picked up the phone and started making calls. While I received the same answers from the supplier, I was unwilling to accept that nothing could be done to help this man. I connected with a Red Cross volunteer who went to pick up the tank, and we were able to deliver this vital resource to help him begin breathing easier.

This situation taught me and our Department staff to be ready for the unexpected and that when severe weather turns lives upside down, sometimes the most meaningful help we can offer is to simply step up.

My hope is that by preparing ahead of time, each and every Kansan will be equipped to weather severe storms and the aftermath in better circumstances. As we all know, Kansas weather can be unpredictable. This year alone, we have experienced blizzards, thunderstorms, wildfires, and tornadoes – some within the same month! So, if you have not already begun preparing for storm season, here are five things you can do right now to get ready.

Review your insurance policy with your insurance agent to make sure you understand your current cov-

erage and have appropriate coverage.

Consider if you need flood insurance as standard homeowners’ insurance, renters’ insurance and dwelling policies do not cover damage from floods.

Establish an emergency plan to stay safe and informed. Be sure to practice your plan so everyone in your home knows what to do when storms come.

Create a home inventory list or update your existing list with any recent changes. Access a free digital list building tool on the Department’s website: [insurance.kansas.gov](http://insurance.kansas.gov).

Protect your home from damage before storms arrive. Check your roof and gutters, clear tree limbs and debris away from your house, and put away loose items like lawn furniture that could cause damage to your home.

The devastation following storms is always heartbreaking, but even amid great loss, I am continually inspired by the Kansas communities that come together to help each other pick up the pieces. It makes me fiercely proud to be a Kansan and honored to work for you.

If you have an issue with an insurance claim, I want to hear from you. Contact the Department’s Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071, by email at [kdoi.complaints@ks.gov](mailto:kdoi.complaints@ks.gov) or online at [insurance.kansas.gov](http://insurance.kansas.gov) for any claims-related questions or concerns. We have real live people answering the phones and we are here to assist.

Stay safe and be ready, Kansas.

**Bio**  
Since being elected in 2018 and serving eight years as Kansas Insurance Commissioner, Vicki Schmidt has returned a total of \$206.6 million to Kansans in consumer recoveries; she resides in Topeka with her husband of over 50 years.

#### North Central Regional Planning Commission Announces Rural Voices Youth Contest Winners

BELOIT, KS, April 17, 2026 — The North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC), based in Beloit, Kansas, has named two high school seniors from North Central Kansas as winners of the 2025-2026 Rural Voices Youth Contest.

Lainey Peschka, a senior at Ellsworth Junior/Senior High School, and Grant Rice, a senior at Minneapolis Junior/Senior High School, submitted the winning entries for this year’s contest. Each student will receive a \$1,000 cash award and the honorary John R. Cyr Rural Voices Award,

named for Cyr, who served as NCRPC Executive Director for 22 years.

The NCRPC has sponsored the contest since 2006 and has awarded more than \$33,000 to high school seniors across the region. Each year, the NCRPC invites seniors from the 12 counties in its service area to submit an original essay or video reflecting the annual theme. This year’s theme was “Rural Kansas...Tomorrow’s Possibilities.”

“This contest provides a valuable opportunity to hear directly from youth in our region,” said Deb Ohlde, NCRPC Executive Director. “This year, students shared thoughtful perspectives on the

future of rural Kansas and their communities. We appreciate the effort of all participants and hope they remain connected to North Central Kansas in the years ahead.”

View the winning entries or learn more about the contest at [www.ncrpc.org/ruralvoices2026winnersannounced](http://www.ncrpc.org/ruralvoices2026winnersannounced).

The North Central Regional Planning Commission is a comprehensive planning and development organization serving a 12-county region in North Central Kansas. Several of its programs and services also extend into much of Kansas. For more information about the NCRPC, visit [www.ncrpc.org](http://www.ncrpc.org).

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# Memorial Hospital introduces new, advanced CT scanner



ABILENE, Kan. — Memorial Hospital has officially begun using its newly installed CT scanner, marking a significant upgrade in diagnostic imaging services for the community.

The new system, a Siemens Healthineers SOMATOM go.All CT

scanner, became operational on March 24, following several weeks of construction, installation and testing. A mobile CT unit was utilized to ensure uninterrupted patient care during implementation.

The new CT scanner is designed to support both routine and advanced imaging procedures while improving efficiency and patient

experience. The system uses AI-supported technology to help guide imaging workflows, reduce exam times and enhance consistency in scan quality.

“This new CT scanner represents an important investment in the health of our community,” said Rhonda Schmid, Radiology & Imaging Services manager at Memorial Hospital. “It allows us to provide faster and more precise imaging. It is also more comfortable, which improves the overall experience for our patients.”

The scanner features advanced imaging capabilities that deliver high-quality, detailed images across a wide range of clinical applications, including neurological and oncology imaging. The system is designed with patient-centered features such as guided breathing support, and real-time monitoring to improve the overall patient experience during exams. This new technology also enables improved dose efficiency, helping to minimize radiation exposure while maintaining diagnostic accuracy.

Memorial Hospital’s Radiology and Imaging Services department provides a full range of diagnostic imaging services to support timely diagnosis and treatment planning for patients across the region.

For more information about imaging services at Memorial Hospital, visit [https://mhsks.org/radiology\\_imaging\\_services/](https://mhsks.org/radiology_imaging_services/) or call 785-263-6663.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
1<sup>st</sup> 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  
4<sup>th</sup> 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  
4<sup>th</sup> of each month 11:30 AM 12:30 PM

Awesome meet at lola. Twenty four schools competed and the Rural Vista Heat boys took first. We took eleven boys and every event that we had entries in we placed in the top six. Several new PR's and almost every boy medaled in at least one event. Our only girl that we took medaled in both her events. (Courtesy of RV)



## A.Q. Miller School of Media and Communication professor to lead K-State Salina Civic Lecture Series on rise of fake news

MANHATTAN — The final Civic Lecture Series of the academic year at Kansas State University Salina will explore media literacy in the digital age and help attendees learn how to spot fake news.

While K-State Salina's Civic Lecture Series typically takes place around lunchtime, "Finding the Real in a Flood of Fake: Media Literacy in the Digital Age" will take place on Wednesday, April 22, at 6 p.m.

Leading the discussion is Emmy-Award winning former news broadcaster, current director of the Wildcat Electronic Media and assistant director and professor for the A.Q. Miller School of Media Communication Andrew Smith. Smith studies content consumption and how what we consume affects us. He also leads multiple study abroad trips every year, teaching photography, mobile journalism and sports culture. He was recently named Broadcast Educator of the Year by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters.

Smith spent 25 years as a news and sports broadcaster — including stops as a sports director and executive sports producer at WLUK-TV in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and as a sports director at KSNV-TV in Las Vegas — before joining K-State's faculty in 2017.

"Finding the Real in a Flood of Fake: Media Literacy in the Digital Age" will teach attendees how to identify and plan to avoid being duped by their content consumption,

as well as learn strategies and attitudes for managing content use and why it matters. K-State Salina's Civic Lecture Series invites speakers who bring unique insights and expertise, to lead enriching discussion and encourage meaningful dialog on issues crucial to the community and society.

"Finding the Real in a Flood of Fake: Media Literacy in the Digital Age" is 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the College Center Conference Room, 2310 Centennial Rd, on the K-State Salina campus.

More information about the event is at the Civic Lecture Series website <https://www.salina.k-state.edu/about/visitor-information/civic-lecture/>

As the nation's first operational land-grant institution, Kansas State University has served the people of Kansas, the nation and the world since its founding in 1863 — and it continues to set the standard as a next-generation land-grant university. K-State offers an exceptional student experience across three physical campuses and online offerings, meeting students where they are and preparing them to achieve their personal and professional goals. The university is committed to its mission of teaching, research and service through industry-connected programs, impactful research-driven solutions, and a sharp focus on community engagement and economic prosperity.

## EVENTS

23 Apr, Thu

12 – 1pm MS TR @ Wamego  
 12:30pm Archery - Nationals Sandy  
 3:05 – 3:30pm Winter Sports Coaches Meeting  
 4 – 5:30pm Baseball: Varsity Herington  
 4 – 5:30pm JH Track: Wakefield  
 4 – 5:30pm Softball: Varsity Herington  
 4 – 5:30pm Track: High School Council Grove  
 6 – 7pm Post 12 American Legion-Herington

24 Apr, Fri

All day Archery - Nationals Sandy  
 All day Elementary Band Tour  
 All day HS Cloud County Art Day  
 1 – 6pm JV/V Golf Meet Hesston  
 3 – 4:30pm Softball: Varsity Little River, KS  
 3 – 4pm TR V @ Abilene  
 4:30 – 5:30pm BSB vs Riley County  
 4:30 – 5:30pm SB V @ Riley County  
 6:30 – 7:30pm VFW Bingo 101 E Main St

25 Apr, Sat

Until 1:30pm Archery - Nationals Sandy  
 All day KSHSAA State Solo/Small Ensemble  
 7am – 2pm Hi-Y Fishing Tournament  
 4 – 6pm CES PTO Carnival

26 Apr, Sun

2 – 3pm CHS Piano Recital  
 5 – 6:30pm Piano Recital  
 5 – 6pm CMS Piano Recital @ CHS Auditorium

27 Apr, Mon

All day CES Kindergarten Round Up  
 All day NHS SR Spring Service Hour Deadline  
 9 – 10am Veterans Coffee The Pin Up Cafe  
 9 – 10am Golf: Varsity Salina  
 1 – 2:30pm JH Track: Herington  
 1 – 2pm BTN V @ Abilene  
 1 – 2pm GF V @ Concordia  
 1 – 2pm MS TR @ Herington  
 4:30 – 5:30pm BSB JV vs Marysville  
 4:30 – 5:30pm SB V vs Beloit (rescheduled from 4/10)

28 Apr, Tue

All day 6th Grade Field Trip  
 All day Golf: JV Council Grove  
 4 – 5:30pm Baseball: Varsity Herington  
 4 – 5:30pm Softball: Varsity Herington  
 4 – 5pm TR JV @ Clay Center  
 4:30 – 6pm Track: High School Hesston  
 4:30 – 5:30pm SB V/JV vs Council Grove  
 4:30 – 5pm BSB V vs Council Grove  
 9 – 10pm Golf Topeka

The Dickinson County Retired School Personnel Association will be providing a \$500.00 incentive scholarship for a 2026 Fall semester junior or senior college student. The student must be graduated from one of the Dickinson County Kansas high schools and must be in the School of Education at a college or university in Kansas.

The award will be based upon character, academic scholarship, teacher potential. Applications must be in by June 10, 2026 and the selection will be announced for the award by July 10, 2026.

Interested students may contact any of the following for applications: their high school guidance counselors or websites, the School of Education office at their university or college, or PM Renee Kerbs, the DCRSP Scholarship Chairperson.

## HE HAD ONE TOE Van Yandell

Acts 1: 8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Have you ever known where you were, but not exactly? We were working an area in East Africa north of Nairobi Kenya, in the Embu province somewhere between Kerugoya and Nyeri. Not knowing exactly where we were prohibits me from giving an exact location; however we knew Nairobi was south of us and that was enough. This is in the Mt Kenya (17,057 feet) area. Being the second highest mountain in Africa, it is a sight to behold. With its rugged peaks, that mountain has a beauty all its own.

Traveling through such an area preaching the Gospel is a unique experience and one I would like to have again. We met some unique people and found the Africans to be very gracious. It was not uncommon for villagers to invite us to a meal. To feast on githeri, a mixture of corn and beans is a pleasant surprise, especially when one has been walking the bush or jungle for hours.

Where there were roads, we had an old Toyota pick-up truck we used for a speaker's stand. With microphones and speakers in the back, we would pull into a market, town or village and someone would speak to gather a crowd. Then one of us would provide, with an interpreter, a Gospel message. The people were anxious to meet and talk with us. One man wanted his grandson to meet me. He left for a while; then returned with a young boy about seven, maybe eight years old. I was the first white man the little boy had ever seen. He could not take his eyes off me. White man in Swahili is “Wazungu.” He could not stop staring at my blue green eyes. My eye color was a new experience for him.

In one village we were called the “Um-baba” meaning “going around in circles.” The British occupied Kenya until 1963 and the nationals saw them as constantly “going around in circles” thus the name.

In other villages the children always gathered around to get a closer look and feel. They always wanted to feel my arms. The African men have no hair on their arms so here I was the main attraction once again. Thinking of the children running their hands over my arms still brings a smile.

In the market in Embu, was a vegetable stand; it had plantain. I'd never eaten plantain and thought it was a kind of banana. I bought one for two schillings and proceeded to try to peel it like a banana.

My trusty pocket knife managed to get

into the “tasty” part. Not realizing it had to be cooked, it puckered me up like a persimmon and the locals couldn't stop laughing. Laughing when puckered is not easy but an effort was made.

One man that educated the Wazungu wore one flip-flop on his right foot. He only had one toe on that foot and none on his left foot. He was probably seventy plus years old and had walked so many miles on the sandy trails and roads, the abrasion had worn off all his toes but one.

His flip-flop was wired to the one toe. He didn't seem to be in pain and appeared to be a happy guy. We sat on a log by the entrance to the market. I explained to him the beliefs of Christianity. He prayed to receive Jesus on that log that sunny day in East Africa. What a great blessing that was for both of us! When we leave such a place, we know we'll probably never be back. Parting words are usually “If I don't see you again here on earth, I'll see you in Heaven.”

Another time we were close to the Indian Ocean. In one village an elderly lady received Jesus. I'll never forget the tears in her eyes as she heard the Gospel story. No one had ever told her that God loved her so much He was willing to shed His blood and die for her so she could have eternal life. The next Sunday the Utange church held a baptism in the ocean about two miles from the church. She walked for those two miles, barefoot on a gravelly road to be baptized. I will never forget the look on her face when she came up out of the water.

Christ Jesus voluntarily, sacrificially shed His blood, gave His life for the sin of all mankind. Salvation is because of His sacrifice; because of what He did. We have found people of many nationalities, many ethnic groups, many skin colors, and many other differences that embrace Jesus when they hear of His sacrifice because of His love for them. 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).

Reaching people for the Lord Jesus has been one of the most satisfying and blessed things I have ever participated in. We don't have to go to the ‘utmost parts of the earth’ to find someone to tell. Go for the blessing and tell someone. You'll be glad you did and so will they.

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





## SpiceUpYourLife-CarrotCakeCobbler Lindsey Young

this week for a really easy cobbler. It takes all the flavors of carrot cake and combines them with a pecan pie for an excellent dessert that must absolutely be enjoyed with a big scoop of ice cream.

This comes from the blog "The Salty Cooker." You can find the original post at <https://thesaltycooker.com/carrot-cake-cobbler-with-caramel-pecan-filling/>. I added extra

### Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Butter a seven-by-10-inch baking dish, and set it aside.

For the filling, in a large bowl, whisk the eggs, corn syrup, brown sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, allspice and salt until it's well-combined. Stir in the pecans, and pour the mixture into the baking dish.

In another mixing bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, and salt and stir to combine.

Cut in the butter with a fork or pastry cutter until it's well incorporated. Stir in the buttermilk, vanilla and carrots, just until it's combined.

Drop scoops of the cobbler mixture evenly over the top of the filling (there will be some gaps).

Bake for 40 to 45 minutes or until the top is golden brown and the filling bubbles around the edges.

Rest for at least 10 minutes before serving.

Serve warm or room temperature, along with some vanilla ice cream.

We had this for our family Easter celebration. It was really, really good. The warm spices, along with the texture of the filling and the cobbler topping, just took it over the top.

And it was a lot less work than creating a whole cake or a batch of carrot cake muffins, which were—by the way—a great addition to the newsroom, not only because the reporters all love snacks but also because I didn't share a single bit of this cobbler with any of them.

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).

Carrot cake cobbler is like taking a carrot cake and marrying it with a pecan pie, and its warm spices and gooey filling demand a big scoop of vanilla ice cream for serving.

There's no doubt you should cobble together dessert this week. If you didn't know, we recently celebrated the first-ever "Local News Day" on April 9.

The effort to observe local journalists around the country came from a push in Montana. In Newton, we had a small, but mighty, group of community members who stood outside our office with signs, touting the importance of having a local newspaper. It was really neat.

What the newsroom also really appreciated was the group very kindly dropped a bunch of delicious goodies at the office, as well.

My favorite? Some carrot cake cupcakes with cream cheese frosting.

I absolutely adore carrot cake.

Ironically, that particular cake is the inspiration for the recipe I'm sharing with you

spices in my version.

### Carrot Cake Cobbler

#### Filling Ingredients

3 eggs  
1 1/2 cups dark corn syrup  
3/4 cup brown sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon allspice  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 cups pecans, chopped

#### Cobbler Ingredients

1 1/2 cups flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/4 teaspoon ginger  
1/4 teaspoon cloves  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
8 tablespoons butter, cold  
3/4 cup buttermilk (I used milk with a touch of vinegar)  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 1/2 cups carrots, shredded

## Prairie Doc Perspective

"Death, Taxes, and Aging Eyes"

By Debra Johnston, MD

Benjamin Franklin famously wrote "in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

Franklin was a legendary intellect, and it's hard to overstate the impact he had. But I'd suggest an addition to that particular quote, one with which I suspect he'd agree. Most of us know him as one of the Founding Fathers, as the author of Poor Richards Almanack, as the guy who flew kites during lightening storms. Perhaps less famously, Franklin was also an inventor. He is credited with the creation of the bifocal lens, reportedly inspired by his frustration with switching between pairs of glasses.

As a woman of a certain age, who has needed corrective lenses since childhood, I can well appreciate that frustration, and in turn, that invention! Our eyes are complex organs. In the very front, there is the clear dome of the cornea. Then we have the iris, the colored part of the eye. This is a muscle, and

it controls the size of the pupil, the black central hole through which light is allowed entry. From there, light strikes the lens, which is pulled into different shapes by small muscles around its edge, and focused onto the retina in the very back of the eye. Specialized cells in the retina convert light to electricity, and the optic nerve transmits these messages to the brain.

When I talk to my middle aged patients about symptoms they may be having, they frequently volunteer that they now need glasses for the first time, or that they have "upgraded" to those bifocals. They are usually surprised when I reassure them that this is not only normal, but frankly expected! The cells that create the lens lose the ability to repair or replace themselves over time. The lens becomes less flexible. It doesn't change shape as easily, and as that happens the eye has a harder time focusing up close. Eventually, a person develops presbyopia: age related

far-sightedness.

This same process leads to a condition quite familiar to most people: cataracts. As those cells in the lens deteriorate, they become increasingly cloudy. Light has a harder time penetrating, and it may be scattered on the way through, instead of sharply focused. People may notice blurry vision, muted colors, glare around lights.

They may need brighter light to read, and find it very difficult see at night. By 80, approximately 50% of people either have cataracts, or have had cataract surgery. Presbyopia and cataracts may be a normal, readily treated part of aging, but you shouldn't neglect those eye exams. As we get older, other eye conditions become more common. Diseases like macular degeneration and glaucoma can be detected by the eye doctor well before they cause symptoms. Since those symptoms include irreversible vision loss, we should all be motivated to make that appointment!

Medicine is ever changing. Research avenues that seem promising turn into dead ends. Dead ends become detours to unexpected and exciting places. Maybe in the future, we will have drops or supplements or some other way to keep our eyes young. But for now, nothing can be said to be certain, except death, taxes. . . and presbyopia.

Dr. Debra Johnston is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

**Driving Dickinson County Launches Stars, Stripes & Storefront Showdown to Celebrate America's 250th Birthday**

Nine communities. One incredible summer. \$2,000 in cash prizes up for grabs.

This summer, Dickinson County businesses have a chance to do something that's never been done here before — compete for real cash prizes by decorating their storefronts in patriotic pride, while the whole community shows up to cheer them on.

Driving Dickinson County is proud to announce the Stars, Stripes & Storefront Showdown, a countywide window and facade decorating contest celebrating America's 250th birthday. Open to every business across all nine Dickinson County communities, the contest runs Memorial Day through July 17, 2026 — with winners announced July 27.

Part of Something Bigger The Storefront Showdown builds on Driving Dickinson County's commitment to making 2026 a landmark year for the county. Earlier this year, Dickinson County launched a \$30,000 America 250 Community Grant Program — funded by Dickinson County and administered by the Community Foundation of Dickinson County — to support local

celebrations, events, and legacy projects honoring the nation's 250th anniversary. The Storefront Showdown is a natural extension of that countywide momentum.

"Dickinson County has already invested in bringing America 250 to life across our communities through our grant program, and the Storefront Showdown is a natural extension of that work," said Natalie Muruato, CEO of Driving Dickinson County. "We've developed a Dickinson County Celebrates America logo that businesses are encouraged — though not required — to incorporate into their displays. When our storefronts carry that shared mark this summer, it sends a powerful message: Dickinson County shows up together."

How It Works Businesses register for free, decorate their storefronts in a patriotic display by Memorial Day, May 25, and get listed in a public voting directory. From Memorial Day through July 17, community members can vote daily for their favorite displays online. Main

award winners are determined by a combination of public votes and judge panel scoring. The People's Choice Award goes to the business with the highest public vote count. All winners are announced publicly on July 27, 2026.

- Cash Prizes**
- Four winners will share \$2,000 in cash prizes:
    - o Grand Champion (First Place) — \$1,000
    - o Star of the County (Second Place) — \$500
    - o Community Pride (Third Place) — \$250
    - o People's Choice Award — \$250. Awarded to the business with the highest public vote total not already in the top three.
  - People's Choice Award presented by Astra Bank

Download and share the official contest flyer (PDF) Every Business. Every Community. The Storefront Showdown is open to businesses of all sizes and industries —

storefronts, restaurants, offices, farms, and home-based businesses with signage. From Abilene to Herington, Solomon to Hope, every community has an equal shot.

"The Stars, Stripes & Storefront Showdown is exactly what Driving Dickinson County is built to do," said Muruato.

"On the economic development side, we're driving foot traffic to local businesses and putting Dickinson County on the map as a destination this summer. On the chamber side, we're connecting businesses to their community in a way that builds real relationships and local pride. Two lanes. One direction.

Roadmarkable — this summer, both lanes run right through the storefronts of Dickinson County."

Register Today Visit the official contest page to view full details and to register. Registration is free and takes less than five minutes. Registration closes May 17, 2026.

Official Contest Page: <https://www.dkedc.com/business/america-250-storefront-showdown>

Full contest details, rules, and timeline are available at [dkedc.com/business/america-250-storefront-showdown](https://www.dkedc.com/business/america-250-storefront-showdown).

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.

Class 4A -- West Regional					[Regional Bracket]
School	Record	Win %	ARS	ARA	
SC					
Mulvane HS	13-1	0.929	11.14	1.57	
Concordia HS	11-1	0.917	10.92	2.00	
Pratt HS	11-3	0.786	8.00	3.07	
McPherson HS	12-4	0.750	8.25	3.75	
Clay Center Community HS	10-4	0.714	8.29	4.64	
Clearwater HS	10-4	0.714	6.79	5.50	
Lyons-Sterling	8-4	0.667	9.42	5.58	
Augusta HS	8-6	0.571	7.57	6.93	
Rose Hill HS	8-7	0.533	6.80	6.00	
Circle HS	9-9	0.500	5.83	5.67	
Andale High School	7-7	0.500	8.36	8.29	
Wellington HS	6-8	0.429	5.14	7.71	
Ulysses HS	5-7	0.417	7.83	7.25	✓
Hoisington-Clafin Central Plains	5-7	0.417	5.42	9.92	
Hugoton HS	6-10	0.375	5.31	7.69	
Buhler HS	5-9	0.357	7.36	6.86	
Chapman HS	5-9	0.357	8.71	8.29	
Larned HS	2-7	0.222	6.44	7.67	
Abilene HS	2-10	0.167	3.33	8.25	
Winfield HS	2-13	0.133	2.00	9.87	

Class 3A -- Regional 3 Regional				[Regional Bracket]
School	Record	Win %	SC	
Council Grove HS	11-1	0.917		
Burlington HS	13-2	0.867		
Wichita Collegiate HS	12-2	0.857		
Southeast of Saline HS	10-2	0.833		
Wichita-Trinity Academy	14-3	0.824		
Hesston HS	8-3	0.727		
Kingman/Norwich	10-4	0.714		
Haven HS	8-4	0.667		
Cheney HS	10-6	0.625		
CSA Reds	7-6	0.538		
Halstead HS	6-6	0.500		
Chaparral HS	5-7	0.417		
Hillsboro/Peabody-Burns	3-9	0.250		
Osage City HS	3-9	0.250		
Fredonia HS	3-10	0.231		
Herington HS	0-13	0.000		

**2026 BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

**AT HERINGTON COUNTRY CLUB**

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**10:00 SHOTGUN START 'LUNCH PROVIDED'**

**4 PERSON SCRAMBLE**

**\$ CASH PRIZES \$**

**AVAILABLE MULLIGANS**

**INDIVIDUAL SIDE GAMES**

**ENTRY FEE = \$60/PERSON**

**LIMITED GOLF CARTS AVAILABLE**

REGISTRATION/PAYMENT BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25 TO: CENTRE HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE CLASS 2374 310TH STREET LOST SPRINGS, KS 66859 CONTACT KIMBERLY KROUPA 785-983-4321



**Talk to us today about the right mix of Advertising to Help Your Business Thrive**




DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS • AMERICA 250

# Stars, Stripes & Storefront Showdown

A Countywide Business Celebration