

Dancing in the streets with LHS Alumni

The all-classes-Lincoln-High-School-Alumni-Weekend was June 5-6 and celebrated by the entire community. Many events were planned by the Lincoln High School Alumni Association and others were community planned, but all were enjoyed.

The annual alumni meeting was held at Lincoln Jr/Sr High School and ca-

tered by the PTCO. Led by Alumni Board Member Bree McReynolds-Baetz, updates were shared on projects and improvements with the district, made possible by the generosity of alumni classes, individuals, business and community support.

Alumni took to a microphone to recall shenanigans from their high school years across the generations. The

oldest class represented this year was the Class of 1955, celebrating their 71st high school reunion! Traveling the furthest back to their roots were alumni from Florida and Michigan.

This year, the LHS class of 1976 celebrated their 50th high school reunion while the class of 1996 celebrated their 30th year reunion! No matter how many years it

had been, no one felt them as dragging Lincoln Avenue, 30 garage sales, bake sales, pancake feeds, taco feeds and more, everyone remembered their glory days at LHS. The weekend of meeting up with old friends while making new ones culminated in a street dance with music provided by the Soul Preachers.

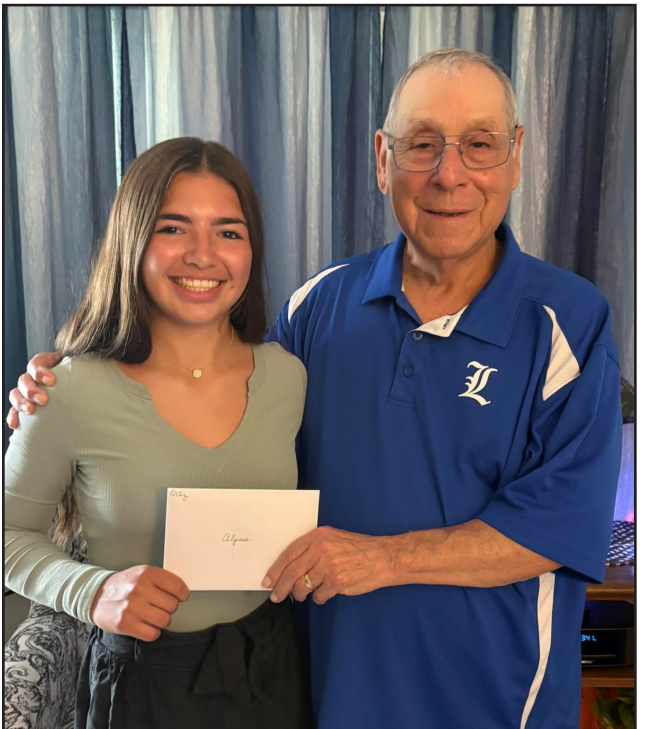
LCIC gives back to the community

The Lincoln Center Improvement Committee had a busy weekend between Alumni Weekend and a bake sale fundraiser on Saturday, June 6, and a free community ice cream social on Sunday, June 7. The committee thanks the community for their generous purchases at Saturday's bake sale. Proceeds from the sale will be used toward the cost of the downtown lighting project.

On Sunday, committee members served ice cream free of charge to anyone who stopped by the shelter at Lincoln's City Park, before enjoying a free day at the City pool, complements of the City of Lincoln Center.

Lopez awarded Ortiz basketball scholarship

Alyssa Lopez is the 2026 recipient of the Ortiz Family Basketball Scholarship. Alyssa's application included outstanding reference letters. She has excelled both academically and athletically throughout her four years of high school. Her actions and attitude both on and off the court made her a top prospect for this annual award. This is the 29th year for the scholarship, which former girls' basketball coach Joe Ortiz began in 1997.



Alyssa Lopez and Joe Ortiz. (Courtesy photo)

Hazel Avery Work-Study Student Internship

The Lincoln County Historical Society is now accepting applications for three (3) unpaid student internships. Interns will earn school credit, work during their scheduled school hours and gain valuable workplace skills that look great on college applications.

Students who complete the fall semester program will be eligible to apply for one (1) paid internship position to be offered in the spring.

Apply at the Lincoln County Historical Museum now through July 1 to apply. The museum's summer hours are Tuesday through Friday, 1-5 p.m.

Remember - You don't have to be history buff to gain through this opportunity. This internship provides hands-on experience with web design, social media content, nonprofit business skills, fundraising projects, data organization, customer service and much more.



Class of 1976. Back row (L-R): Doug Jensen, Donnie White, Tim Meier, Mike Spear, Dwight Watson, Randy Jones, Leslie Bosch, Tim Andreasen, Kevin Defebaugh, Steve Gorsuch, Tim Schroeder, Jeff Kobbeman. Front Row (L-R): Tammy Smith Bell, Viki Serrien Meier, Greta Brummer Obermueller, Susie Campbell Will, Nancy Mabry McWhirter, Stephanie Broberg Hutchinson, Carole Cromwell Liggett, Mary Kroenlein Funk, Shelia Lebien Rathbun, Deb Drummert, Norma Dohe Kobbeman. In honor of those gone but not forgotten. remembering Don Cole, Omar Hair, Dannie Hearn, Randy Herbel, Jeff Howell, Arlissa Jensen, Darlene Kreigh Anderson, Kathy Long Huehl, Ed Madden, Lora Suelter Howg and Terry Wiebke. (Courtesy photo)



Class of 1996. Back Row (L-R): Jeff White, Scott Rathbun, Kathryn Chandler, Todd Suelter. Front Row (L-R): Dale Romesburg, Trint Hall, Sage Edmundson, Libby "Kobbeman" Taylor, Terresa "Anderson" Boyles, Amy "Kissick" Otte and Becky "Stegman" Rathbun. (Courtesy photo)

USD298 Survey results available on-line

The USD 298 Patron Survey was conducted from April 28 through May 15, 2026, to gather community input on facility needs at Lincoln Elementary School and the options to address those needs. The online survey was designed by Dr. Shelly Kiblinger, Ed.D., with input from the district. Dr. Kiblinger's time to develop and analyze the survey was provided pro by DCS Services of Wichita as a pre-bond service. The results of this survey are intended to

assist the USD 298 Board of Education in its decision-making process. A public meeting was recently held to release the results of the survey.

The results are very in-depth, beginning with an overall profile of the district by town included in the USD 298 school district, namely Barnard, Beverly and Lincoln, then compared to the State of Kansas.

In the fall of 2025, the district's enrollment was 308 students (pre-K through

12th grade), with 42.6% of students qualifying for free meals and 12.1% qualifying for reduced-price meals. Enrollment has followed a downward trend typical of most rural Kansas schools. This decline began in 2001 and lasted until the 2019-20 school year, which was followed by a period of stable or increasing enrollment lasting through the 2024-25 school year. Enrollment declined in 2025-26, but it is impossible to determine if this data point is an anom-

aly or the start of another declining enrollment trend. The district's property valuation is \$43,570,089. For the 2025-26 school year, the district's total mill levy was 51.488 mills, comprising a general fund (20 mills), local option budget (23.988 mills), capital outlay (7.5 mills). The district does not have a bond and interest levy because the district currently has no bond debt. The district's total mill levy is lower than the 2025-26 Kansas state average of 53.232

mills.

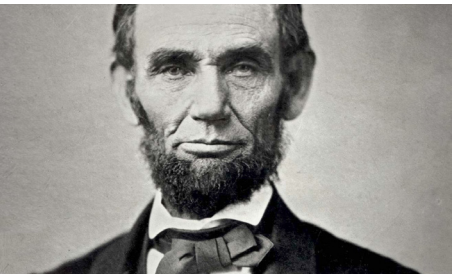
The survey was administered in both online and paper-pencil formats to maximize participation. This dual modality ensured accessibility for all district patrons, including registered voters and those who may lack reliable internet access or technological comfort. The online link was distributed via district social media and email, while the paper-pencil version was mailed to the 1,556 registered voters in the district. Respondents

could return paper surveys by mail or by dropping them off at any school or district office.

Both versions of the survey were identical with the following exceptions: Question 1 (Duplicate Responses): A question was included to identify respondents who may have previously taken the survey, which included instructions not to submit duplicate surveys. Wording was slightly different between the paper-pencil and

See "Survey" page 5

Five funny facts about Abraham Lincoln



Fact #1: At age 11, Grace Bedell wrote Abraham Lincoln suggesting he grow a beard. Lincoln took her advice and sported whiskers after the election. Fact #2: Lincoln's favorite cat, Tabby, was so spoiled she reportedly dined at the White House table during a formal dinner. Fact #3: Lincoln often stored important papers inside his famous top hat, leading some to believe that's where the phrase "keep it under your hat" originated. Fact #4: Lincoln is the only U.S. president to hold a patent. His invention was designed to help boats cross shallow waters but was never built. Fact #5: Standing 6-foot-4, Lincoln often joked about his appearance. When accused of being "two-faced," he replied, "If I had another face, do you think I'd wear this one?"

Cash Grain

Corn.....	\$3.67
Milo.....	\$3.32
Soybeans.....	\$10.27
Wheat.....	\$5.77

Cash prices courtesy of
Ag Mark

Community Calendar

Thursday, June 11

Friday, June 12

Saturday, June 13

USD 298: All Star Football Game in Beloit

Sunday, June 14

USD 299: 2pm Storm BB Practice @ Sylvan Gym; 6pm HS Boys BB Practice@ Sylvan Gym

Monday, June 15

Tuesday, June 16

Lincoln: 10:15 am Summer Storytime @ Lincoln Carnegie Library

USD 299: 8am HS Girls BB Practice @ Sylvan Gym

Wednesday, June 17

Lincoln: 5 pm What's Up After Hours @ Lincoln Carnegie Library

USD 299: 8am HS VB Practice @ Sylvan Gym

Commodity Distribution held the third Wednesday every other month at The Cube (147 N. 4th St., Lincoln.) January, March, May, June, Sept.r, Nov.

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

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

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

First Presbyterian Church VBS

The First Presbyterian Church, Sylvan Grove, had a very successful Vacation Bible School May 26-29. Our theme for the week was Treasured! The average attendance was 45 kids! Our mission this year was to raise money for the Lynne Thrun, who is battling cancer. Lynne helped us as a volunteer this week as she has done for many of the previous years! She is pictured here with the VBS kids. We collected a little over \$1275 to help with her expenses. Thank you to everyone who helped with our mission. The First Presbyterian Church would like to thank all of the student helpers and volunteers who helped throughout the week. Everyone have a great Summer!

Post Rock Community Foundation awards scholarships

SYLVAN GROVE, Kan.— The Post Rock Community Foundation has awarded \$4,900 in scholarships to area students for the upcoming academic year.

The Lincoln High School Alumni Association Scholarship is for seniors graduating from Lincoln High School. Kimberly Helus, Lincoln, KS Jordan Meyer, Lincoln, KS and Easton Good, Barnard, KS each received this scholarship.

The Wilson-Langley Fund for Luray Student Academic Scholarship is for graduating high school seniors or graduates who are residents of Luray, or the rural areas of Amherst, Luray, Valley or Waldo Townships, and are attending a Kansas university, college, vocational or technical school. MaKayla Murphy, Waldo, KS and Taylor Fallis, Luray, KS each received this scholarship.

The foundation is home to two scholarship funds, which were established by area donors to support students pursuing higher education. More information about the scholarship program can be found at www.postrockcf.org/scholarships.

Post Rock Community Foundation awards over \$67,000 in spring grants

SYLVAN GROVE, Kan.— During the spring grant cycle, the Post Rock Community Foundation awarded over \$67,000 to 12 projects throughout Lincoln County and communities served by USD #298 and #299. The following organizations received funding:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, \$21,717.94 to purchase & install new windows in the Lutheran school building.

City of Hunter, \$2,074.53 towards the Hunter shelter & multi-age recreation project.

City of Sylvan Grove, \$4,304.94 to purchase supplies for the fairground grandstand & fence rehab.

USD #299, \$5,000 towards the cost of concrete to update track & field facilities.

Lucas Rural Fire Department, \$6,158.57 to purchase Thermal Imagers to be used on fire trucks.

USD #299, \$1,000 to support 5th & 6th grade students at Lucas-Sylvan Elementary to attend Nex-Generation Young AmeriTowne.

The Lucas Historical Society, \$8,000 towards installation of a new HVAC system in the museum.

USD #299, \$2,000 to purchase a Dell Pro 24 All-in-one computer for the journalism program to use for layout & design.

Lincoln County, \$10,000 for the Lincoln County Ambulance Service to purchase 2 Stryker Power Load Systems, 1 Stryker cot, & the retrofitting of 1 existing Stryker Cot to upgrade their ambulances.

USD #298, \$3,500 to purchase a shot clock system for one of the gymnasiums.

USD #298, \$1,790 to purchase microphones, stands, & accessories to enhance the sound system for elementary performances & community events.

USD #298, \$2,000 to enhance the learning environment across all early childhood classrooms.

This round of grants was made possible by four funds at the community foundation: the Post Rock Community Action Fund, the Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund, the Patterson Family Foundation Fund, and the Sylvan Area Fund; all focus on improving quality of life throughout the service area.

The foundation's next grant cycle opens August 1, with online applications due October 1, 2026. For more information, visit <https://postrockcf.org/grants/>.

Lincoln Senior Center

MENU

Monday, June 15

Turkey Tetrazzini, Peas & Carrots, Kidney Bean Salad, Hot Spiced Peaches, Roll & Milk

Tuesday, June 16

Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Corn & Baby Lima Beans, Italian Veggie Blend, Seasonal Fruit & Rolls/Milk

Wednesday, June 17

Ham Au Gratin Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Cornbread Muffin, Cake with Fruit & Milk

Thursday, June 18

Oven Fried Fish, Mac & Cheese, California Blend Veggies, Applesauce & Milk

Friday, June 19

Polish Sausage/Bun, Kraut, Green Beans, Fruit & Milk

Menu is subject to change.

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

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

Alumni Weekend Highlights

Lincoln Alumni Board Members at luncheon. Back Row L-R: Colleen Biggs, Jill Naasz, Katie Good. Front row L-R: Bree McReynolds-Baetz, Pam Michaels and Becky Rathbun. (Courtesy photo)

Alumni of all ages enjoyed lunch catered by the PTCO and sharing stories of their glory days. (Courtesy photo)

The event culminated in dancing to the tunes of the Soul Preachers on South 4th Street. (Courtesy photo)

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Contact Information: Lincoln Sentinel-Republican

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

OBITUARY



Greggory "Gregg" George Olson
June 30, 1949 - May 24, 2026

Greggory "Gregg" George Olson, 76, passed away Sunday, May 24, 2026 in Beloit, KS. He was born June 30, 1949 at the Mitchell County Hospital in Beloit, Kansas to Earl Milford Olson and Sarah Lee (Hougland) Olson. He attended Field Grade School and spent his youth with the West Main Street gang of kids while helping his dad at Olson Clothing Store. Gregg went to Beloit High School and graduated in 1967. During those years, he worked for Harold Chance Grocery and The Clover Farm Store. He also was a Rotary exchange student to Finland in the

summer of 1966. Although he was part of the nerd crowd, Gregg got caught doing some pretty funny antics such as sticking a "For Sale" sign out on a small island that was below the Beloit Mill Dam for people to see that were driving across the river bridge. After high school, he attended University of Missouri Science and Technology at Rolla, Mo studying petroleum engineering. In 1972, Gregg moved back to Beloit and started work at Torr's Hy-Klas Grocery. He took a farming job for Charlie Mears in 1974 and worked there until he was hired by Great Plains Landscape which worked at until his retirement in 2009. Retirement didn't slow him down, he spent 10 years volunteering three days a week at the Mitchell County Museum and took part time jobs at Sunny Slope Apartments. Genealogy and cemetery research were something he was very passionate about. He made yearly pilgrimages to many cemeteries on Memorial Day to decorate graves. He even traveled to Norway twice to walk in the footsteps of his ancestors. Gregg married Emily Jo Gruber at the Presbyterian Church in Beloit on November 18, 1978. To this union one daughter, Olivia, was born. Gregg said, "After all that growing up, all I've found I wanted to do is play harmonica, write letters & raise Olivia; be with her whenever I can. This was easier than I thought." Gregg had many passions: bird

watching, fishing, hiking, baking, bike riding and hanging out with friends. He made the decision one summer to hike across Mitchell County from North to South so he and his friends could experience Mitchell County at its fullest. Gregg enjoyed putting pen to paper sending letters to friends and family. He was known to jump in and play some good "Cow Bell" with local band, "Billy Bob and the Belaires". He grew up playing trombone in the high school band which led to his love for music particularly jazz. Gregg had an extensive library and was an avid reader of all sorts of topics. He was a true renaissance man. His and Jo's gardens down on the "Wrench Place" were some of the biggest in the county. "I embrace emerging experience. I participate in discovery. I am a butterfly. I am not a butterfly collector." -William Stafford Gregg was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his wife, Jo, Barnard, KS; a daughter Olivia and two grandchildren, Emery Grace and Clifton Wayne, Hempstead, TX; a sister, Lynn Ann (Kevin) McWhirter, Rockford, IL; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions can be made to Mitchell County Historical Society, Lincoln Art Center, Solomon Valley Hospice, or USD 273 Foundation: Stadium Campaign, c/o, Hall Chapel, PO Box 37, Lincoln, KS 67455. Condolences can be left at hallchapel.com.

7 DAYS LEFT

APPLY TODAY: occk.com/scholarship

MORE THAN YOU THINK

SCHOLARSHIP

OCCK ‘More Than You Think’ scholarship applications due June 15

OCCK, Inc. is reminding students and families that applications for the More Than You Think Scholarship are due soon. The scholarship supports students with disabilities in North Central Kansas who are pursuing higher education, including college, university, community college, vocational school, technical school or another credentialed learning opportunity.

Eligible applicants must live in one of the following Kansas counties: Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic or Saline. Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by June 15, 2026. Application materials and additional information are available at <https://occk.com/scholarships/>. For questions, contact OCCK, Inc. at 785-827-9383.

About OCCK, Inc. OCCK, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides services and supports to people with disabilities of all ages in North Central Kansas. OCCK works to help people live, work and fully participate in their communities through a wide range of programs, including employment services, independent living supports, transportation, home care, assistive technology and more.

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2026
The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Ken Meitler and Member Leon Hart present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary. Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson, Mona Buttenhoff, Brandon Sauers, and Felicia Strahm. Correspondence: bill for Lincoln Park Manor and Hospital Board of Trustees monthly meeting packet. Health Nurse/Administrator Mona Buttenhoff presented the department's 2027 budget request. Public Works Director Brandon Sauers provided an update on department

activities. Sauers discussed staffing levels and training. Sauers related that the landfill schedule will be modified to allow two employees to work on Saturdays. Sauers invited the board to the retirement reception for David Winckler on May 28 from 3-5 p.m. Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm requested approval to employ Aaron Bray and Louis Malik. Debora Smith moved to employ Aaron Bray as a seasonal mower at Grade 14, Step 9, \$16.45 per hour, effective today, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve a conditional offer of employment to Louis Malik as a full-time equipment operator, at Grade 14, Step 12, \$17.12 per hour, effective upon successful completion of pre-employment testing,

seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried. Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm provided an update on open positions and previously approved employee transfers. Strahm stated that she has spoken with an individual interested in cleaning the courthouse on a contractual basis and that she is also awaiting a cost estimate from a cleaning service provider. Strahm related that she has also reached out to an individual about completing yard maintenance for county buildings. The board discussed the county-owned property in Section 36, Marion Township, its status, and whether it should be leased or listed for sale. The board discussed the EMS staffing and the request to employ a family member into the open full-time position.

The board reviewed with Administrator Adam Robertson the following topics from his weekly email report: Transportation Bus update; Lincoln Park Manor will provide space to the food pantry; courthouse site visits by companies interested in bidding to be the project manager for the courthouse rehabilitation; the county's 2022 Comprehensive Vision Plan; and the county website ADA compliance requirements. Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the May 18th meeting as amended, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m. The next meeting will be held in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026.

See "COMMISSION" page 5



BETHANY CHURCH Eight miles north, six miles west and one mile north of Lincoln Sunday School @ 9:45 am Worship Service @ 11:00 am Evening Service @ 7:00 pm	LINCOLN PARK MANOR CHAPEL Morning Worship @ 9:30 am Afternoon Worship @ 2:30 pm
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS Pastor Christopher Craig Sylvan Grove, Kansas Sunday School following Worship Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am	LINCOLN UNITED METHODIST Worship Service @ 10:30 am Alternate Pastor & Lay Leaders provide Communion
BEVERLY COMMUNITY CHURCH www.beverlycommunitychurch.org Pastor Toby Flaming Sunday School @ 9:30 am Morning Worship @ 10:45 am	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Sylvan Grove, Kansas Sunday School @ 10:00 am Church @ 11:00 am
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Sunday School @ 9:30 am Worship Service @ 10:30 am Nursery available during service Light Keepers Wed. @6:30 grades 6-12 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7am @ The Cube	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor Don Haselhuhn Lincoln, Kansas Two and one-half miles south of Lincoln on Highway 14 Sunday/Bible School...9:30 am Worship Service.....10:30 am
CULVER METHODIST CHURCH Pastor Demele Eckart 401 Main Street, Culver, Ks Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am Saturday Coffee @ 8-10 am	ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Father Mark Wesely, Lincoln Rectory phone: 785-524-4823 Email: stpat327@gmail.com Sunday Mass @ 11:00 am Sunday CCD Classes @ 9:45 am Weekday Mass: Mondays - 3:30 pm
DENMARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, ELCA Worship Service @ 10:30 am	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS Pastor Don Haselhuhn Six and one-half miles south and 4 miles east of Lincoln Worship Service @ 9:00 am
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Jonathan Schale Lincoln Park Manor @ 9:30 am Bible Study @10:30 am Worship Hour @ 11:00 am Afternoon Worship @ 2:00 pm Wed. Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA Pastor Rod Thompson, Tescott Worship Service @ 9:00 am
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Carolyn Allen, Barnard Morning Worship @11:00 pm	TESCOTT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Pastor Demele Eckart Sunday School @ 10:00 am Worship @ 11:00 am
GRACE CHAPEL-HUNTER Pastors Kaye & Jeff Metzler Worship Service @ 9:00 am	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HUNTER Pastor Matthew Schneider Hunter, Kansas Sunday School @ 9:00 am Worship Service @10:00 am Midweek/Confirmation Wednesdays @ 4:30 to 5:45
LINCOLN COMMUNITY CHURCH www.lincolncommunitychurch.org Pastor Steven Rohn Sunday School @ 9:30 am Worship Service @ 10:30 am Women of Grace.Wed. @ 5:30 pm To rent the cube call Michael Pickering 785-524-4744. Sunday Evening Service @ 6:30 Adventure Club Wed. 6pm - 7pm Ages 3-12	Barnard United Methodist Church Pastors Kaye and Jeff Metzler Service Times: Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Church schedules are made possible by the following sponsors:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Swimming lessons offered at City Pool

The Lincoln City Pool is offering non Red Cross Certified swimming lessons for ages 3 to middle school! The classes are \$50 per child per session. Sessions are set for June 15-19 and July 6-10. Lessons will be on a rolling 30-45 minute schedule beginning at 8 a.m. with the oldest groups. A schedule will be shared when it becomes available. For more information or to sign up, contact Taegen at 785-524-6170.

Research Participants Needed!

Study Information

The University of Kansas is studying public trust in self-driving cars. Participants must be aged 18+. The survey is expected to take 5-10 minutes. Take the survey online: tinyurl.com/KUselfdrivingsurvey

Contact Information

Logan Pittman

Shi'an Wang

Principal Investigator

Faculty Supervisor

(316) 221-0224

(785) 864-3393

lnpittman@ku.edu

shian.wang@ku.edu

You're Invited!

Charlene Batchman's 80th Birthday blast!

Wednesday, June 10 • 2-4 pm

Finch Theatre – Lincoln, KS

She's spent 80 years making life sweeter for everyone around her – now it's our turn to celebrate HER!

Come celebrate her big 8-0 with laughter, memories, food and fun!

Hosted by her blessed Children: Rob, Ryan & Dena!

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Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau

Betting on wheat harvest

Jackie Mundt
Pratt County farmer and rancher

For the first time in decades, the FIFA World Cup is being played in the United States, with Kansas City serving as one of the host cities. The host cities are expected to see unprecedented crowds bringing equal parts excitement and logistical challenges. Fans and critics around the world are placing their bets about final scores, attendance and everything in between. It's human nature to make predictions about big things like who will win the tournament, and smaller questions like how many people will try to illegally walk across I-95 in New Jersey to get to the stadium?

In agriculture, there is a lot of guesswork brought on by weather, commodity markets and many other factors. For the past month, the questions have focused on wheat harvest: when will it start, will there be any wheat to harvest and how long will it last?

Unlike a sporting event, there is no official kickoff for harvest. There is no schedule released months in advance and no countdown clock everyone can trust. Harvest begins when the crop, the weather and the field conditions all decide they are ready.

Coffee shops, grain elevators, equipment sheds and pickup trucks are great places to catch a local forecast. Everyone has an opinion. Some trust the calendar. Others trust experience. Many point to what or who they see in the field or on the highway.

Conditions this year have been very dry through winter and spring. Some places have little or no wheat to harvest. Anecdotal reports have been made of harvest crews skipping typical stopping points in Texas and Oklahoma or starting earlier than normal. Other places lucky enough to get a little moisture did so with the added challenge of hail that hurt or completely wiped out their wheat crops.

The farmers who still have crops standing after drought and hail have been preparing combines, grain carts and semis for an early, quick harvest.

Last Monday, two weeks ahead of the unofficial expected start date for our area, my partner, Marc, called me and asked if I wanted to ride to town with him to deliver the first load of wheat. He picked me up at the end of the driveway and we enjoyed Sonic drinks and good conversation while waiting to dump the truck at the elevator. That is what constitutes a romantic date night on a farm.

That was the first and only load of wheat that has made it to the elevator as we got more than 4 inches of rain that night in just a few hours. The rain was welcomed after months of dry conditions, but it also changed the equation. Fields that were ready to harvest wouldn't be accessible for a week or more if they weren't washed out completely.

Farmers make plans, gather information and prepare as best we can, all while knowing weather, markets and circumstances can change without notice. This year's harvest outlook is a reminder of that reality. What appeared certain weeks or even hours in advance can look much different in a matter of hours. Patience is not simply a virtue in agriculture; it is the hand dealt to farmers year in and year out.

While soccer fans around the world debate scores, brackets and championship contenders, wheat country will continue its own annual contest: predicting the day the first combines roll into the field, what harvest will look like and how many bushels will end up in the elevator.

And just like every year, uncertainty is part of what makes the conversation worth having.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

Post Rock Extension District

Double-crop options after wheat harvest

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

It won't be long and the combines will be harvesting our 2026 wheat crop! Unfortunately, the wheat crop faced many challenges during this growing season and some fields have already been destroyed. Potential yields are expected to be well below average, however, producers may be thinking about double-cropping after wheat harvest to help supplement the drought-stricken pastures.

The most common options producers use in northcentral Kansas are either forage or sudan sorghum or cover crops.

Herbicide carryover is the first thing that should be considered in your wheat crop when considering double-cropping. Many herbicides applied to wheat are Group 2 herbicides in the sulfonylurea family with the potential to remain in the soil after harvest. According to Sarah Ganske, K-State Extension, Weed specialist, where herbicide carryover is not a concern, summer annual sorghum-type forages are also a good double-crop option. A KSU research study found that when summer rainfall was very favorable, provided yields of 2.5 to 3 tons dry matter/acre for hybrid pearl millet and sudangrass at

the low end to 4 to 5 tons dry matter/acre for forage sorghum, BMR forage sorghum, photoperiod sensitive forage sorghum, and sorghum x sudangrass hybrids. Earlier plantings may produce even more tonnage, as long as there is adequate August rainfall.

One challenge with late-planted summer annual forages is getting them to dry down when harvest is delayed until mid- to late-September. Wrapping bales or bagging to make silage are good ways to deal with the higher moisture forage this late in the year.

Burndown of summer annual weeds present at planting is essential for successful double-cropping. According to Jeanne Falk-Jones, K-State Extension, NW Agronomist, assuming glyphosate-resistant kochia and pigweeds are present, combinations of glyphosate with products such as saflufenacil (Sharpen) or tiafenacil (Reviton), or alternative treatments such as Paraquat may be required.

Cover crops are another option after wheat harvest. Cover crops may offer a longer and more flexible grazing period than spring-planted cover crops within wheat-based dryland cropping systems. However, low available soil moisture and variable weather patterns this time of year can make cover crop establishment and productivity highly variable. the varied species available for use as cover crops.

Producers can use the Midwest Cover Crops Council, Cover Crops Decision Tool to help select species based on specified goals. The decision tool currently includes recommendations for Kansas and Nebraska counties.

Ganske stresses that one of the issues with double-cropping that is often overlooked by producers is the potential for volunteer wheat in the crop following wheat. If volunteer wheat emerges and goes uncontrolled, it can cause serious problems for nearby wheat fields in the fall as a host for the wheat streak mosaic complex of viruses [wheat streak mosaic (WSMV), High Plains disease (HPD), and triticum mosaic (TriMV)] that are transmitted by the wheat curl mite (WCM).

Volunteer wheat can generally be controlled fairly well with glyphosate (Roundup, others) or Group 1 herbicides such as quizalofop (Assure II, others) or clethodim (Select Max, others), but control is reduced during times of drought stress. Atrazine can provide control of volunteer wheat in double-crop corn or sorghum, but control can be erratic depending on rainfall patterns.

If you have more questions on double-crop options after wheat harvest, stop by or give me a call at any of our Post Rock Extension District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne, or Smith Center.

PRAIRIE DOC BY DARLA BIEL, Ed.D.

Every Story Is an Act of Power: Why Direct Service Providers Must Practice Dignified Storytelling

Stories are at the heart of direct service and clinical work. Whether written in case notes, shared in supervision, included in grant reports, or told at community meetings, stories help others understand the impact of our work. They build emotional connection in ways data alone cannot. But storytelling is also an act of power, and when we're not careful, that power can unintentionally cause harm.

For many families, their stories are told about them, not with them. Direct service providers often hold the microphone through professional language, reports, and presentations. Even with good intentions, stories can strip dignity,

reinforce stereotypes, or expose families to stigma, especially in small or close-knit communities where anonymized details are often still identifying.

Dignified storytelling asks us to slow down and be intentional. At its core is a simple truth: it's not our story. The direct service provider's role is not to extract compelling narratives for program promotion, but to honor people's humanity, safety, and agency while still communicating the value of direct service work.

One of the most common pitfalls is what some call "hardship" or "bootstrap" storytelling. This is the idea that success comes only from individual effort and that suffering must be emphasized to prove impact. These stories often rely on pity-inducing language, exaggerate trauma, or cast providers as heroes while families appear passive or broken. Not only does this framing erase strengths and resilience, it ignores the real systems that shape people's lives, such as access to housing, healthcare, childcare, and economic opportunity.

A more ethical approach focuses on balanced, multidimensional stories. Dignified storytelling acknowledges challenges while also highlighting strengths, goals, decision-making, and progress. It shows people as parents, workers, community members, and partners and not just as clients or problems to be solved. It

shifts the narrative from rescue to relationship.

Consent is another critical piece of ethical and dignified storytelling. Consent is not just a form signed once and filed away. True informed consent requires that people understand why their story is being shared, what will be created, where and how it will be shared, and for how long. It must happen in accessible language, in settings where it's genuinely safe to say no, and with the clear understanding that consent can be withdrawn at any time. What felt acceptable at intake may not feel safe months or years later.

Sometimes, the most ethical storytelling choice is not to share a story at all. If there is any risk of harm, retraumatization, stigma, or identification, especially in situations involving young children or families facing substance use, violence, or child welfare involvement. The answer may need to be no. Saying no to sharing a client's story isn't a failure; it's ethical leadership.

Fortunately, there are always alternatives. Aggregated data, composite stories, systems-level insights, and reflective narratives can demonstrate impact without putting individuals at risk. And when individual stories are shared. Co-creation, with families reviewing and approving how they're represented, offers one of the strongest safeguards.

A useful litmus test is this:

If you wouldn't want the family to read what you wrote about them in an article or report, don't write it. People are always more important than program promotion.

Every story is an opportunity to honor or to harm. The choices that clinicians and other direct service providers make every day shape not only individual experiences, but organizational culture and public understanding. Practicing dignified storytelling helps ensure that the stories we tell today build trust, respect, and dignity for years to come.

Darla Biel, Ed.D. is Assistant Director of the Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM) within USD's School of Health Sciences. Her research interests include community-engaged scholarship, social determinants and health, and cross-sector collaboration efforts in primary prevention of childhood adversity. Biel leads the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant funded by HRSA and is a member of the SD Childcare Task Force's executive committee. She lives in Brookings with her husband, Marc. 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 on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).*



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Commission/

May 29, 2026
The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Friday, May 29, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with Vice-Chairman Ken Meitler and Member Leon Hart present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary. Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson and Felicia Strahm. Debora Smith moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$232,916.24, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$606,915.00, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried. The chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m. The next meeting will be held in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2026.

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Survey/

online survey forms. (Forced Responses): The online survey required an answer for every multiple-choice question, while the paper-pencil version allowed questions to be skipped, either by choice or accident. The “no response” category in this report accounts for questions which were skipped on the paper-pencil survey. The survey was distributed at large. As with any survey, the results may not be generalizable to the entire district population. Descriptive statistics have been included to help readers understand the demographics of the survey respondents compared to the general population. Survey responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including categorical and ordinal data. Themes from open-ended responses were also identified, and relevant cross-tabulations were performed. Paper-pencil responses were manually entered into the online survey portal by USD 298 staff. Note: Percentages throughout this report are rounded to the nearest tenth and may not always total 100. Questions regarding the levels of tax patrons are willing to pay were designed using information provided by Piper Sandler, a financial advisor for bonds. The amounts of taxation used in the questions translate into the following bond amounts shown in a table in the results documentation. The actual amount able to be repaid with these levels of tax will vary from the amount illustrated, depending upon interest rates and length of bond term at the time of financing. The survey was distributed through targeted mailing to all registered voters of the district and by providing the general population with a link to an online survey. The target survey participants were patrons of USD 298 who can vote in a bond election. However, the district also serves out-of-district students. While only those within the district boundaries can vote in a bond election, the opinions of out-of-district patrons have also been captured by the survey. Survey respondents were divided into 8 categories based upon the characteristic of their age. The chart and table below show the breakdown of survey respondents by age groups. Respondents between the ages of 50 and 79 made up 45.9% of all respondents. Of all survey respondents, 46.7% live in the city of Lincoln while 44.5% live in the rural areas of USD #298. A total of 245 respondents indicated they are registered to vote and reside within the district boundaries. Therefore, only 15.7% of the district’s 1,556 registered voters responded to the survey. Each aspect of the survey itself, including the background leading up to a public survey, what they mean and how they might be used, is explained in plain English so anyone can understand. They’ve provided data and comparison figures. They have calculated the actual impact a bond issue might make as far as property taxes. See the survey results at https://www.usd298.com.

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The roller coaster that will be the tallest and fastest in the world is being built in this country.

Answer: Saudi Arabia

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

CKATR

1234

LAFL

5

PSDEE

67

CITTEK

8

O

N

521

432

28762

Answers: Track, Fall, Speed, Ticket : Front car rider

NEW

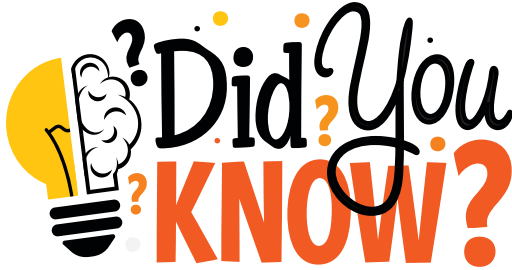
WORD

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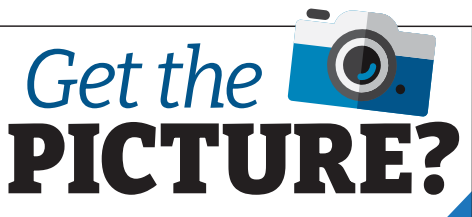
a roller coaster that turns riders upside-down



English: Ride
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Italian: Giostra
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