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# LINCOLN SENTINEL-REPUBLICAN

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## Lincoln Leopard musicians participated in Kansas State Lions Band Camp



Five Lincoln High School musicians recently participated in the Kansas State Lions Band Camp at Hutchinson Community College, representing Lincoln and LHS with pride. Pictured (L-R) are Katelyn Heinze, Gavin Lopez, Band Instructor Henry Huck, Chloe Helus, Collin Rosebrook, and Ethan Wolting. The students joined talented musicians from across Kansas for a week of rehearsals, learning, and performances. (Courtesy photo)

## Juneteenth National Independence Day

Officially called Juneteenth National Independence Day, Juneteenth is observed annually on June 19, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. It is also called Freedom Day and has been celebrated since 1866, one of the oldest continuing African American holidays. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing more than 3,000,000 slaves living in the Confederate states. It took two additional years before 250,000 enslaved African Americans living in Texas were freed.

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to enforce the edict. For some people, slaves and owners alike, General Order No. 3 was their first knowledge of the abolishment of slavery in the Confederate States. That order, in part, read "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, "all slaves are free."

It's no surprise that reactions to this news were mixed, ranging from shock and disbelief to feasts and celebrations.

Within a few years the celebrations spread to other communities in other states and continue annually across the country.

Juneteenth became a state holiday in Texas in 1980, with other states following suit, before becoming a federal holiday in 2021.

## Historical Society partners with Lincoln Carnegie Library

The Lincoln County Historical Society has partnered with the Lincoln Carnegie Library to offer a program that will make history! "Unearth our History" will June 4, 2026 at 2:30 pm in the Library Meeting Room on the lower level. If you're interested in history and wish you knew more, this is the program for you!

## What's Up After Hours at Lincoln Carnegie Library

The Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce is holding their next "What's Up After Hours" at the Lincoln Carnegie Library on Wednesday, June 17 from 5-7 p.m. Chamber members, library patrons and interest individuals are invited for a come-and-go tour of the library located at 203 S. 3rd Street.

Between 1900 and 1916, 59 public libraries were built in Kansas from 58 grants totaling \$874,996 awarded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. In addition, academic libraries were built at seven institutions at a cost of \$195,500. Most of these libraries no longer continue to be used as a library. Some of the structures are used for other purposes and others have been destroyed.

The Lincoln Carnegie Library was erected March 14, 1913, with a \$6,000 Carnegie Corporation grant. The building is also on the National Registry of Historic Places. The event includes a Wine & Cheese Tasting with samplings of French, Italian and German wines with cheese pairings stationed throughout the library, along with book suggestions. The event is being sponsored by Friends of the Lincoln Carnegie Library. Drawings will be held at 5:30, 6 and 6:30 pm. Winners will receive a bottle of wine of their choice.

What's Up After Hours is designed to highlight Chamber members at their place of business without disrupting normal operations.

## Local donation to support Quilts of Valor



(L-R) The Bank of Tescott employees Jessica Placencia, Cindy Aufdemberge, and Angela Corpstein present a \$500 donation to Lincoln Quilt Guild President Lana Houston in support of the Quilts of Valor project.

The Lincoln Quilt Guild members have designed and constructed 69 beautiful patriotic quilts and presented them to Lincoln County veterans in ceremonious style. The quilts are hand-pieced and machine quilted with skill and love at the center of each project. The program began as a mother's

tribute to her son, and the quilts are meant to provide comfort and peace for those who have protected our freedoms. An additional 46 quilts are still needed to complete the project for our remaining local veterans.

Quilts are not inexpensive to make. Besides the obvious costs of the fabrics and

notions, each quilt takes patience and a lot of time on the part of the creator.

The Bank of Tescott acknowledges the sacrifices the Quilt Guild has made collectively in order to proceed with this project and actively support organizations that honor those who have served our country

while strengthening our communities through compassion, dedication and volunteerism. BOT recently presented Quilt Guild president Lana Huston with a check for \$500 to help defray the costs for the additional quilts.

## Unusual Cloud Formation Draws Attention Near Lincoln



Cloud formations around Lincoln were putting on their best ferocious faces before the storms hit Friday, May 29. Rain and wind have been common visitors this spring in the area. Ponds are filling up and the ground is soaking up as moisture as it can hold. These photos were taken in Lincoln and south of Lincoln. (Photos courtesy of Jyll Phillips, Deb Ortiz and Kris Heinze.)

June 1 is World Milk Day

Cash Grain



World Milk Day is a celebration, but it's also a movement that highlights milk as a vital, accessible food source that nourishes billions. Milk provides essential nutrients that support bone health, growth and immune function, making it crucial for both children and adults. Observed annually on June 1, World Milk Day unites countries, organizations and communities to recognize and amplify the dairy sector's impact on sustainable agriculture, economic development and global health.

Corn.....	\$3.94
Milo.....	\$3.54
Soybeans.....	\$10.86
Wheat.....	\$5.97

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.

# Online Kansas Nursing School Guide launched by Kansas Nursing Workforce Center

## Free web tool helps potential students explore pre-licensure nursing education options at all schools with nursing programs in Kansas

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS Anyone thinking about becoming a nurse in Kansas now has access to a free online tool to help them find the programs in the state that best meet their individual needs.

The online tool, the Kansas Nursing School Guide, was launched today by the Kansas Nursing Workforce Center at the statewide Kansas School Counselor Association spring conference held in Olathe. The tool is designed to help potential students, as well as their parents and school counselors, explore pre-licensure nursing education — bachelor's and associate degree programs and practical nurse programs required to become a registered nurse (RN) or a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

The Kansas Nursing Workforce Center, based at the University of Kansas School of Nursing, was established in 2023 to increase the number of nurses in the state so that every Kansan who needs nursing care has access to it.

"This (tool) provides ease of access to information about nursing edu-

cation across Kansas," said Barbara MacArthur, M.N., FAAN, director of the Kansas Nursing Workforce Center and clinical assistant professor at KU School of Nursing. "This is about reaching those who are thinking about nursing education, and that may be high school students, or it may be second-career or second-degree students. It's for anybody."

The web tool is part of the Kansas Nursing Pathways Project, funded by the Kansas Board of Regents, and was developed by the Information Technology department at KU Medical Center.

There are more than 40 nursing schools in Kansas. Rather than researching each school individually, potential students can now use the web tool to narrow down their educational options by choosing answers to a series of questions. These questions include the type of degree the potential student desires, their current education level, the preferred length of time to complete a degree, their preferred learning format (e.g., in-person or online-friendly) and in what part of Kan-

sas they would like to study. The tool then produces a list of schools matching these criteria, which includes links to each school's nursing program and contact information for admissions. These results can also be emailed to the user.

In addition to the search function, the web tool contains information on nursing specialties, different degree options, what to consider when choosing a nursing program, Kansas nursing workforce statistics and, of course, information on each nursing education program in the state.

The Kansas Nursing School Guide will also be incorporated into Xello, which is an online program used by K-12 schools throughout Kansas that helps students identify potential careers and educational options, said Amy Curtis, marketing manager at KU School of Nursing. Curtis oversaw the rollout of the web tool.

"For anyone in the state of Kansas who has any inkling of either being a nurse or helping someone else be a nurse, this is a great first stop on that journey," said Curtis.

# Volunteers Needed to help track Kansas Bumble Bees

PRATT—The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) is seeking volunteers to help protect Kansas bumble bees for the fifth year of the Great Plains Bumble Bee Atlas. The Bumble Bee Atlas is a community-science project that trains volunteers to survey and document bumble bees and their habitats across the Great Plains.

With pollinator declines accelerating, the Bumble Bee Atlas gives people a way to take action conserving bumble bees. Training is available for anyone interested in getting involved.

The Bumble Bee Atlas is a nationwide effort spanning 21 states, where trained community scientists help researchers document bumble bees and the habitats they use. The data collected helps researchers, state and federal agencies, and policymakers better support these important pollinators.

Over the past four summers, Kansas participants have identified six bumble bee species, two of which are considered at risk of extinction. Since 2022, participants have recorded 2,300 bumble bees and conducted 263 surveys across the state.

This year, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and

KDWP will host both online and in-person training events in May and June. The goal this summer is to survey unsampled areas in Kansas, particularly prairie habitat in the western part of the state.

"All you need to become a volunteer is an interest in pollinators and the ability to spare a couple of weekends between June and September," said Katie Lamke, a conservation biologist for the Xerces Society. "We especially need volunteers who want to explore sparsely populated areas like the western prairies, where we have less information about bumble bees."

To learn how to do bumble bee surveys, volunteers can watch the most recently recorded online training, review the project handbook, and attend one of the in-person training sessions. The in-person sessions provide hands-on experience with the project methods, including swinging a net and photographing bumble bees.

The two in-person training events will be held on June 6 at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and on June 7 at the Sandsage Bison Range Wildlife Area. The events are free, but preregistration is required. Visit [BumbleBeeAtlas.org/](http://BumbleBeeAtlas.org/)

pages/events to register. Participants are encouraged to view the recorded online training webinar, available on the Xerces Society's YouTube page, before attending an in-person training session.

"We are excited that the Great Plains Bumble Bee Atlas is continuing in Kansas for the next two years," said Diedre Kramer, wildlife diversity coordinator for KDWP. "This is a great opportunity for volunteers to get out and appreciate the wild spaces we have in Kansas while also providing valuable information that will help inform conservation efforts in the future."

To stay informed about the progress of the Bumble Bee Atlas, sign up for the mailing list and connect on Facebook and Instagram (@bumblebeeatlas). For more information about the Great Plains Bumble Bee Atlas project, visit <https://www.bumblebeeatlas.org/great-plains>.

This project has been financed, in part, through the State Wildlife Grant Program under Grant #F25AF00897 from the Fish and Wildlife Service, a division of the United States Department of the Interior, which is administered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.



Monday, June 8

Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Cinnamon Baked Apples, & Milk

Tuesday, June 9

Turkey Salad Sandwich, Three Bean Salad, Seasonal Fruit & Milk

Wednesday, June 10

Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Seasonal Fruit & Milk

Thursday, June 11

Ham Balls, Sweet Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Cinnamon Applesauce & Milk

Friday, June 12

Swedish Meatballs/Sauce, Noodles, Italian Veggies, Fruit in Jello, Oatmeal Rasin Cookies & 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.*

**Phone Number & Website**  
785-524-4200 | [JLSNewsGroup.com](http://JLSNewsGroup.com)

Due to the rising cost of gas prices, the Commissioners have decided we need to cut back on miles driven and increase our fares.

**Our new schedule and fares for Lincoln County Public Transportation**

**New Fares & Mileage Starting Thursday, June 18th**

Lincoln \$2 Round Trip  
In County \$6 Round Trip \$.50 per Stop  
Ellsworth, Beloit, and Minneapolis \$10 Round Trip/ \$1 per Stop  
Salina 2 days a week \$12 Round Trip \$2 per Stop (Monday & Wednesday)



# Kansas Archeological Training Program Field School Returns!

The Kansas Archeological Training Program (KATP) Field School begins on June 4th, offering the public enthusiasts the unique opportunity to explore Kansas history through hands-on archeological excavation, educational workshops, and public programs.

Hosted annually by the Kansas Historical Society in partnership with the Kansas Anthropological Association, the KATP Field School allows participants of all ages and skill levels to work alongside professional archeologists as well as experienced avocational archeologists to uncover and document Kansas' past. This year, participants will be excavating a variety of sites in Russell including a petroglyph carving, a possible tipi ring site, a historic farmstead, a historic schoolhouse, a two-story stone structure, and a site related to World War II Army Air Force history. Most of these sites have never been previously documented or researched, and survey work in the field could discover more sites.

In addition to excavations, the field school includes a variety of presentations, programs, and other workshops providing attendees with the opportunity to hear from experts about preservation efforts across the state and other archeological discoveries.

Events Include:  
6/4 - 6/15 - Russell - Kansas Archeology Training Program Field School (KATP)  
6/5 - Russell - KATP program - Deines Cultural Cen-

ter - 7 to 8 p.m.  
6/6 - Hays - KATP Evening Tour of Fort Hays State Historic Site - 7 to 9 p.m.  
6/7 - Russell - KATP Certification Program Meeting - 7 to 8 p.m.  
6/8 - Russell - KATP Fossil Station Museum and The Avenue of History - 7 to 9 p.m.  
6/9 - Russell - KATP Kansas Anthropological Association Executive Meeting - 7 to 8 p.m.  
6/10 - Russell - Kansas Archeology Lab and Field Work Tours - 2 to 5 p.m.  
6/10 - Russell - Register of Historic Places Workshop - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
6/10 - Russell - KATP Presentation "From Early Naturalists of the Plains to the Sternberg Fossil Lab" - 7 to 8 p.m.  
6/11 - Russell - KATP Presentation "Petroglyphs of the Kansas Smoky Hills" with Rex Buchanan - 7 to 8 p.m.  
6/12 - Russell - KATP Presentation "Walker Army Airfield and the Battle of Kansas" - 7 to 8 p.m.  
6/13 - Russell - Kansas Archeology Lab and Field Work Tours - 2 - 5 p.m.  
Registration for the KATP Field School has closed, but all other programs are open to the public. For more information, program schedules, and event details, visit [kansashistory.org](http://kansashistory.org) or contact us at 785-272-8681.

## Student Achievements McPHERSON COLLEGE

Spring 2026 Honor Roll Honorable Mention

Students must be enrolled full-time and earn a grade point average of 3.55 or higher during the last term to qualify for the honor roll. Students earning a grade point average of 3.25 to 3.54 are named to the honorable mention.

Lucas, KS

Brooklyn Gosvener, Honorable Mention

## Salina Rescue Mission Needs List

Allergy Relief (Benadryl)  
Allergy Relief (Claritin)  
Coffee Mugs  
Tums  
Tylenol

Donations may be delivered seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to the Mission located at 1716 Summers Road in Salina.

Prefer to shop online? Check out our Amazon Wishlist at <https://a.co/eKVZa5> to send items directly to the Mission.

# Contact Information: Lincoln Sentinel-Republican

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

## OBITUARY



**George L. Heisler, Jr.**  
May 10, 1941 - May 23, 2026

George L. Heisler, Jr., 85, passed away Saturday, May 23, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was born May 10, 1941, to Naomi and George Heisler, Sr. George

grew up in Williamstown, MA and graduated from Drury Senior High School in North Adams, MA. Following graduation, he worked alongside his father at the family grocery store before beginning a long career with the Hoosac Water Quality District, where he served as Chief Operator for 25 years until his retirement.

On February 4, 1975, George married the love of his life, Christine Bartlett, and proudly became a father to her three children. George enjoyed fishing, caring for his yard, wood-working, and most of all spending time with family and friends.

In October 1999, George and Christine moved to Beverly, KS where he spent the remainder of his years. Even after retirement, George continued serving his community by helping the city of Beverly maintain its water and sewer systems until declining health required him to fully retire.

George is survived by his wife of 51 years, Christine; daughter Jean-

nine Loynes and husband Kenny; son Edward Sullivan and wife Michelle; grandchildren, Wanda Lemieux, Jason Lemieux, Kevin Lemieux, Natasha Mott, Taylor McCosh, Lindsay McClure, and Tanner Sullivan; 15 great grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Bob and wife Elaine; brother-in-law John Bartlett and wife Ann; and sister-in-law Sheila Bounds. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Donald Joseph; sister Melissa; and brothers-in-law, Donald Gregory, Marty Gregory, and Henry Bounds.

George touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him and will be deeply missed by many.

The Heisler family invites you to share in a celebration of life for George at 12:00 p.m., Saturday, May 30, 2026 at the Beverly City Hall with a luncheon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Heisler family, PO Box 71, Beverly, KS 67423.



**BETHANY CHURCH**  
Eight miles north, six miles west and one mile north of Lincoln  
Sunday School @ 9:45 am  
Worship Service @ 11:00 am  
Evening Service @ 7:00 pm

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS**  
Pastor Christopher Craig  
Sylvan Grove, Kansas  
Sunday School following Worship  
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am

**BEVERLY COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
www.beverlycommunitychurch.org  
Pastor Toby Flaming  
Sunday School @ 9:30 am  
Morning Worship @ 10:45 am

**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School @ 9:30 am  
Worship Service @ 10:30 am  
Nursery available during service  
Light Keepers Wed. @6:30 grades 6-12  
Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7am @ The Cube

**CULVER METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Demerle Eckart  
401 Main Street, Culver, Ks  
Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am  
Saturday Coffee @ 8-10 am

**DENMARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, ELCA**  
Worship Service @ 10:30 am

**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Jonathan Schale  
Lincoln Park Manor @ 9:30 am  
Bible Study @ 10:30 am  
Worship Hour @ 11:00 am  
Afternoon Worship @ 2:00 pm  
Wed. Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Carolyn Allen, Barnard  
Morning Worship @ 11:00 pm

**GRACE CHAPEL-HUNTER**  
Pastors Kaye & Jeff Metzler  
Worship Service @ 9:00 am

**LINCOLN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
www.lincolncommunitychurch.org  
Pastor Steven Rohn  
Sunday School @ 9:30 am  
Worship Service @ 10:30 am  
Women of Grace.Wed. @ 5:30 pm  
To rent the cube call Michael Pickering 785-524-4744.  
Sunday Evening Service @ 6:30  
Adventure Club Wed. 6pm - 7pm  
Ages 3-12

**LINCOLN PARK MANOR CHAPEL**  
Morning Worship @ 9:30 am  
Afternoon Worship @ 2:30 pm

**LINCOLN UNITED METHODIST**  
Worship Service @ 10:30 am  
Alternate Pastor & Lay Leaders provide Communion

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Sylvan Grove, Kansas  
Sunday School @ 10:00 am  
Church @ 11:00 am

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Pastor Don Haselhuhn  
Lincoln, Kansas  
Two and one-half miles south of Lincoln on Highway 14  
Sunday/Bible School...9:30 am  
Worship Service.....10:30 am

**ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Father Mark Wesely, Lincoln  
Rectory phone: 785-524-4823  
Email: stpat327@gmail.com  
Sunday Mass @ 11:00 am  
Sunday CCD Classes @ 9:45 am  
Weekday Mass: Mondays - 3:30 pm


**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS**  
Pastor Don Haselhuhn  
Six and one-half miles south and 4 miles east of Lincoln  
Worship Service @ 9:00 am

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
Pastor Rod Thompson, Tescott  
Worship Service @ 9:00 am

**TESCOTT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Demerle Eckart  
Sunday School @ 10:00 am  
Worship @ 11:00 am

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HUNTER**  
Pastor Matthew Schneider  
Hunter, Kansas  
Sunday School @ 9:00 am  
Worship Service @ 10:00 am  
Midweek/Confirmation  
Wednesdays @ 4:30 to 5:45

**Barnard United Methodist Church**



Pastors Kaye and Jeff Metzler  
**Service Times:**  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

## Local FFA member receives State FFA Degree

A total of 46 members from the North Central District were awarded their State FFA Degree during the 98th Kansas FFA Convention, May 27-29, 2026, at Kansas State University.

The state degree is the highest honor the Kansas FFA Association can bestow upon its members. In

order to achieve this award, members must meet the following requirements: have received their Chapter FFA Degree, been an FFA member and agricultural education student for at least two years, earned at least \$2,000, or worked 600 hours in their Supervised Agricultural Experience program,

given a six-minute speech about agriculture or FFA, participated in eight different leadership activities, received a "C" average or better in high school and shown a record of outstanding leadership and community involvement.

Railynne Soukup, Sylvan-Lucas, was one of the recipients.

## Dlabal awarded WLC Scholarship

Caleb Dlabel, Sylvan-Lucas, one of a select number of Kansas FFA members was awarded a scholarship to attend the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC)

during the 98th Kansas FFA Convention held May 27-29 on the Kansas State University campus.

Each year, FFA members from all over the United States travel to Wash-

ington, DC, to attend WLC. The five-day event helps attendees sharpen their leadership skills by teaching them to know their purpose, value people, take action and serve others.

## Thursdays are HOT this June at the Smoky Hill Museum

Don't miss these hot Thursdays at the Museum! June's First Thursday is From East Elm Street to the White House and Beyond: The Dunbar School Legacy. Join Dr. Jennifer Gordon as she explores the history of Dunbar School through the lives of its students and staff. See how descendants continue the legacy of the Paul Laurence Dunbar School.

June 18 is a special Third Thursday presentation, Following the North Star. Master storyteller Elizabeth (Briscoe) Wilson shares the stories of Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks

and the legacy of her own great-great-grandmother. Come celebrate the courage of these women who changed history through the strength of their conviction and their unyielding faith.

Enjoy these presentations at the Museum or from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. Register for your Zoom links at www.smokyhillmuseum.org to watch it live or see the videos for the next week following each presentation on our website and Facebook page.

The Smoky Hill Museum is a nationally accredited history muse-

um. Since 1986 it has been in the heart of downtown Salina, Kansas. This FREE museum is open Tuesday-Friday 11-5, Saturday 10-5. Also, be sure to stop by the Museum Store for a wide variety of regional and Kansas products, local artwork and gifts for all ages.

For needed accommodations, please call Susan Hawksworth at 309-5776 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Every effort will be made to accommodate known disabilities. For material or speech access, please call at least 5 working days prior to the event.

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, May 18, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with Member Leon Hart present and Vice-Chairman Ken Meitler absent. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson, Brandon Sauers, Brett Wilkinson, Mona Buttenhoff, Diane Walters, Brandon Cochran, Richard White, Felicia Strahm, Tami Kerth, Jesse Knight, Luke Sanders, Truette McQueen, Colleen Tennant, Scott Wright, Mary Ann Stertz, and Rhonda Fernandez.

Correspondence: a letter from the Kansas De-

partment of Health and Environment regarding Kansas Water Pollution Control Permits for Agricultural and Related Wastes and Authorization to Discharge; the Fair Board 2027 budget request, midmonth accounts payable, and tax abatements.

Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatements 2026-21 through 2026-23 in the amount of \$1,968.32, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Administrator Adam Robertson discussed information received while attending a budget finance class; provided an update on the transportation bus and health department activities; related the status of the bridge replacement project funding reimbursement, and the courthouse clock project. Robertson discussed website ADA requirements

that will affect the county website in the future. Commissioner Smith and Robertson shared items discussed during the Regional Dialogue on Corrections Needs and Solutions, organized and facilitated by the North Central Regional Planning Commission.

Brett Wilkinson, Kirkham Michael, presented bids received to complete excavation of the landfill's cell 3 at the construction/demolition pit. Debora Smith moved to award the contract for the excavation at the landfill to Unruh Excavating LLC, for \$76,978.45, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Wilkinson reported that the core testing on the Westfall Rd was completed, with 28 cores taken. Results will be provided at an upcoming meeting.

Health Nurse Adminis-

trator Mona Buttenhoff provided an update on department activities, including submission of the WIC budget to the State and upcoming conferences. Buttenhoff noted that she approved renewing the advertisement banner for the summer ball programs utilizing grant funds. Buttenhoff discussed lab draw days and notified the board that the glass block windows on the storage building needed caulking.

Nursing Home Administrator Diane Walters discussed issues with the building's HVAC system and presented the bids to replace the facility thermostats. Debora Smith moved to approve the bid from Street Plumbing Heating & Electric to replace four thermostats, in the amount of \$4,434, seconded by Leon Hart.

See "COMMISSION" page 5

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.

**Attention Lincoln Readers**

In the foyer of the newspaper office at 141 W Lincoln Ave there is a blue drop box into which you can place payments, ads, etc. There are also papers in the foyer available for purchase. If for any reason you don't receive your paper with your mail delivery, please feel free to pick one up at the office.

**Lincoln Community Church**  
**TACO AND DESSERT BAR**  
Saturday, June 6  
Garage Sale Day  
11 am - 2 pm  
The Cube



**For Sale**  
Registered Angus Bulls

- \* Yearling
- \* Two-year-olds

St. Francis, Kansas  
785-332-6206  
www.crookedcreekangus.com

*Crooked Creek*  
CCA  
Angus

**Lincoln City ~ Wide Garage Sales Saturday, June 6**

Sale list & map available  
Wednesday, June 3 at  
Mity Mart, Lincoln Grocery & Lincoln Chamber Facebook  
785-524-4934



## Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau

### Byways and backroads

Greg Doerhing  
Kansas Farm Bureau

Summer starts on Memorial Day, even though the solstice is about a month later. Schools are out, it's warm enough to stay out late and it's the beginning of road trip season. Whether its families packing the station wagon (or modern equivalent) for vacation or an individual making a short journey, now is when the open road beckons.

No doubt these travelers will rack up millions of miles along interstate highways this summer. Sometimes it's not the journey, but the destination that counts. The interstate will get you there faster than any other road, but the time savings comes at a cost.

The interstate system, thanks to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, is a marvel of engineering and efficiency. Its effectiveness is its downfall, however, for experiencing the joy of driving.

Long straightaways and gentle grades, coupled with wide lanes, generous shoulders and one-way travel create a sterile and monotonous experience. The monotony of hurling down the road at a constant speed is imprinted on the faces of tired travelers at roadside rest stops.

It's far different from how driving evolved along U.S. Route 66, the so-called Mother Road, which turns 100 this year. Its pavement connected Chicago to Santa Monica, though imaginations and travelers mostly headed west.

Though it still lives on, including the 13-mile stretch in southeast Kansas, Route 66's glory days are long gone. Its legacy lives on as the first corridor of roadside commerce, fueling the growth of motels, restaurants and service stations all catering to cars.

The car culture it created still exists, but it seems to be headed to the same fate as the manual transmission. There are still paths out there that are worthy of drivers who understand driving is as much about the road as it is about the surroundings and the vehicle you're in.

Kansas Tourism has a helpful guide of our state's more traveled byways. Yes, Route 66 is included, as is the stretch of K-177 between Council Grove and Cassoday, which offers some unrivaled Flint Hills vistas. Other hills to explore via designated byways include the Glacial Hills in the northeast and the Gypsum Hills in the south-central part of the state.

Out west is the "Land and Sky" route along K-27 which cuts through Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties. At the southern terminus in Sharon Springs, head east on U.S. 40 and you'll be on the "Western Vistas" trail that features Kansas' badlands.

There are two byways dedicated to fencing, the aptly named "Native Stone" from Manhattan to Dover and "Post Rock" between Lucas and Wilson.

I've traveled on all of these and can vouch they're all worth driving if you want to feel like part of the landscape as you navigate narrow lanes with mirages shimmering on the blacktop, float a little as you crest hilltops a little too fast and feel the rush of the unknown around the next corner.

Sometimes the destination is more important than the journey, but every now and then it's worth the extra effort to take the slow way. Whether it's a backroad or byway, summer is a good time to buckle up and enjoy the drive.

"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.

## THE ANGLE



Alexa Romesburg

Critical thinking is a lost skill. Whether we are discussing politics, religion, science,

medicine, health, children, family, youth, it seems we have all lost the skill to critically engage with those who may disagree with our perspective or point of view. When did it stop being perfectly acceptable to respectfully disagree in a democracy and decliningly democratic union? In a nation decidedly founded on the principles and tenets of communal and individual liberty? When did we decide to be so all or nothing as a society? As a culture? As a country? Is there no more nuance ever conceded in anything these days? One is either all in on any given topic or all out of the loop barring any slight deviation from the prevailing party line. Civil disagreement is not permitted or tolerated anymore, it would seem. Must it ever be so, my fellow Americans?

Just because I typically don't vote Democrat doesn't mean I can't see that Republicans have covered up and participated in some equivalently major scandals. Likewise, just because my values often align with Republican political talking

points doesn't mean I hate all Democrats. Sheesh. One nation, under God. Anyone remember that? I work in a pre-school, and consider myself enormously privileged to do so. In that classroom, those little ones recite the pledge (in semi-unison) with their tiny hands on their precious hearts while uniformly standing and facing the flag. They are being taught the very values in that action which we as a somewhat civilized society appear to have forgotten or worse yet, have quite possibly even renounced.

To that point, growing up, my Papa, an attorney, once entered the political arena while running for judge in Cleveland, Ohio. He deeply believed in and thus embedded in my heart the idea that there are always two sides to a story. He taught me (often in the form of lively banter with my grandma at their dinner table) to always appreciate the other person's point of view and to take it into consideration when formulating an opinion or stating a position on any matter. Even tomatoes. Or tomatoes. Thank you, Papa, for the lessons. We could all do with a few of those equal opportunity, dinner table disagreements in the name of diplomacy right about now. But it is not just the political climate or secular worldview that has fallen

### Critical Thinking

beneath such low bars. The state of Christianity as well as the fate of it also reflect a need and call for a renewed practice of and appreciation for critical thinking today. We can no longer swallow what a pastor says, simply because he stands behind a pulpit or even because he has a lot of followers on social media or in real life. We have to be good Bereans, as the bible says and go home and study the scriptures for ourselves. I am always astounded at the number of people who are, in various interviews or on a myriad of differing platforms, either quoting scripture completely inaccurately (sometimes to the point of making it up as they go) or taking it entirely out of context to serve a private agenda on any given matter. But that is willful and woeful ignorance on both the part of the hearer as well as the speaker who have either failed to fact check or flatly refuse to do so.

We have to grow up, beloved. We have to learn to think critically again both as a society and as individuals. We have learned throughout history what blind allegiance and forced or coerced compliance produces, and it is not good. Although it is redundant. For as the saying goes, "history repeats itself." And so, it does. When I read the bible, I see a bunch of misfits who God used. Even as he uses misfits today. If you can read the psalms from an intellectually hon-

est place and not see King David as a mentally ill man than I suspect you are not truly engaging with the text, in its context. Now lest my words be misconstrued, as being critical of God or his word, allow me to elaborate. It is not critical commentary. Far from it. It is merely critical thinking. God is not ashamed to allow King David to vent his radical and seemingly bipolar emotions in the written word. So, why are we afraid and reticent to think critically about what we are reading and believing without ever acknowledging how very relatable and relevant it all really is? Mental illness is a real thing. In the bible, throughout history, and in our world today. But we whitewash it when reading our bibles and cognitively disengage with the deepest parts of biblical stories. The ones that make our heroes, heroines, and villains, so much more like us. Just as we could see if we took off all of our red, white and blue blinders and chose to look at our political adversaries across the aisle (or the ocean) as mirror reflections of our own humanity for better or for worse. Critical thinking, people. Let's bring it back. Let's make it a thing. Let's critically engage with each other, our faith, and this world. It is critical that we do. If you agree with me, good. If you disagree with me, also fine. For your disagreement activates critical thinking. No argument here.

## Post Rock Extension District

### Bagworms

By Cassie Thiessen  
K-State Research and Extension Post Rock Horticulture Agent

If you live in Kansas and have evergreen trees, you have probably dealt with bagworms. Most of us are familiar with their brown bags made of leaf matter that hang off trees like Christmas ornaments and the devastating defoliation these pests can cause. By the time you see these brown bags and start to notice you have a problem, it's too late. Let's get a jump start on them this year!

Bagworms overwinter as eggs protected in the females' bags. The larvae hatch and emerge from the old bag from mid-May through the end of June. It is a continual hatch during that time period. The larvae immediately construct their own bag and begin feeding. These new bags are covered with bits of foliage, but are very small, initially only 1/25th of an inch long.

The bagworms continue feeding and growing until mid-August. Then, the larvae anchor their bags to a branch and seal themselves inside. At this point, no chemical treatment is effective because it cannot get through the barrier created by the sealed bag. The larvae pupate into adults. The males are black moths with clear wings, and the females are worm-like in appearance and

remain inside their bags. The males mate with the females in their bags, the females lay the eggs in the bags and then die. The cycle is repeated with the overwintering eggs.

Most of us are familiar with bagworms in cedar and juniper trees. However, they may also attack other evergreens, such as arborvitae, spruce, and pine. They can also feed on deciduous trees and shrubs, such as: willow, maple, oak, box elder, sycamore, poplar, locust, rose, barberry, cherry, peach, and blackberry. If the bagworms defoliate one host plant, the larvae can migrate to another host plant nearby. It could be the same species or a completely different host.

Most of the time, we don't notice that a bagworm problem is present because the smaller larvae do not feed as much or as rapidly as larger larvae. Then, in a short amount of time, a tree is defoliated, seemingly overnight. Deciduous trees are better able to withstand foliar feeding damage than evergreen trees because deciduous trees can replenish their foliage faster. If evergreen trees experience successive years of heavy foliar feeding by large bagworm populations, even well-established trees could be lost.

If the previous year's bagworm feeding was severe, you should consider two insecticide applications. The first should be applied when the

larvae are emerging in mid- to late-May, followed by a second application approximately 3 weeks later to get any larvae that hatched after the first treatment. If the infestation was slight, you could get by with one application in late-June. If you can only spray once per year, then the late-June spray is recommended.

Thorough spray coverage of the tree's foliage is critical for controlling these pests. Insecticides must be applied with sufficient sprayer pressure in adequate amounts of water to ensure both the interior and exterior foliage are covered. This can be difficult to do, especially on a windbreak, but it is crucial to the success of the application.

Insecticides commonly used for controlling bagworms include spinosad, acephate, cyfluthrin, or permethrin. Products containing Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) are effective when the larvae are small.

Make sure to take precautions early this year and treat your trees before bagworms get out of hand. For more information on controlling bagworms, contact your local Post Rock District Extension office.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Cassie may be contacted at [cthiessen@ksu.edu](mailto:cthiessen@ksu.edu) or by calling Beloit (785-738-3597). Find us online at [www.postrock.ksu.edu](http://www.postrock.ksu.edu)

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## Kansas Governor Proclaims June 2026 as National Safety Month

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly has officially proclaimed June 2026 as National Safety Month in the state of Kansas. National Safety Month is observed each June to raise awareness about preventing workplace injuries, reducing risks and creating safer communities. We recognize the importance of workplace safety and encourage employers, workers and communities to remain committed to preventing injuries and promoting safe environments.

The proclamation highlights the ongoing efforts of the Kansas Department of Labor Division of Industrial Safety and Health to help save lives through safety education, hazard identification and proactive workplace practices.

"National Safety Month serves as an important reminder that workplace injuries and accidents are preventable," said Allen Vinyard, Director of Safety. "By working together with public and private employers we can identify workplace hazards, correct unsafe working conditions and prioritize safety education. Kansas employers, workers and community partners play a critical role in preventing injuries and strengthening workplace safety statewide."

The full proclamation can be accessed here: [National Safety Month 2026 Proclamation](#)

For more information about workplace safety programs and services available through the Kansas Department of Labor, visit [dol.ks.gov/ish](http://dol.ks.gov/ish).

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**Commission/**from page 3

Motion carried. Walters related that only one individual had contacted them regarding the old stove. The board approved hauling it to the landfill metal pile if the individual is not interested. Walters discussed the facility's upcoming planned activities.

Public Works Director Brandon Sauers provided pricing received to extend the warranties for all eligible motor graders. Debora Smith moved to approve warranty extensions from Foley Equipment for five motor graders, equipment ID's 311, 316, 318, 328, and 331, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Sauers provided an update on highway department, noxious weed, and landfill activities and equipment. Commissioner Hart shared road maintenance requests received.

Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran provided an update on grant applications submitted for the power lift and autoloading systems. Cochran related that licensing renewals were completed. Cochran requested that Mason Florence be hired to fill the open full-time position. No action was taken by the board on this date.

Richard White complained about the condition of the county roads and culverts in Franklin and Elkhorn Townships.

The chairman recessed the meeting at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened the meeting in the courthouse meeting room at 11:03 a.m. with the following department heads present: Adam Robertson, Brandon Sauers, Mona Buttenhoff, Brandon Cochran, Felicia Strahm, Tami Kerth, Jesse Knight, Luke Sanders, Truette McQueen, Colleen Tennant, Scott Wright, and Mary Ann Stertz.

The group discussed the following topics: developing office-level COOP plans; presenting budgets to the board by June 22, with a 2-step salary increase projected; and Emergency Management will use Everbridge for mass communications, with the subscription paid through the Regional Homeland Security Council.

The chairman recessed the meeting at 11:52 a.m. and reconvened the meeting in the courthouse commission meeting room at 11:55 a.m.

Debora Smith moved to approve midmonth accounts payable in the amount of \$389,551.84, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the May 11th meeting, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm requested approval to rehire Braxton Stertz. Debora Smith moved to reemploy Braxton Stertz as a part-time Register of Deeds, Grade 13 Step 0, \$13.95 per hour, effective May 18, 2026, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Strahm provided an update on open positions.

Rhonda Fernandez, PIC, provided information on available health insurance options and discussed the services her company provides. Fernandez will prepare a consultant agreement for the board's consideration.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

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# Area Athletes Earn State Track Medals in Wichita

Several area athletes returned home with state medals after competing against Kansas' best at the 2026 KSHSAA State Track and Field Championships in Wichita.

Lincoln High School's Xavier Miller earned a state medal in the boys' 200-meter dash, placing seventh with a time of 22.87 seconds. Teammate Jeremiah Miller also reached the podium, finishing sixth in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 40.89 seconds.

In the field events, Lincoln's Ben Bell cleared 13 feet, 6 inches to claim fourth place in the pole vault competition.

Sylvan-Lucas High School's Vance Dohl earned a fourth-place finish in the boys' high jump, successfully clearing 6 feet, 6 inches. On the girls' side, teammate Codie Huehl captured an eighth-place medal in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:01.32.

Tescott's Breonna Peterson brought home two state medals in distance events. Peterson placed seventh in the girls' 1,600-meter run and followed that performance with a sixth-place finish in the 3,200-meter run.



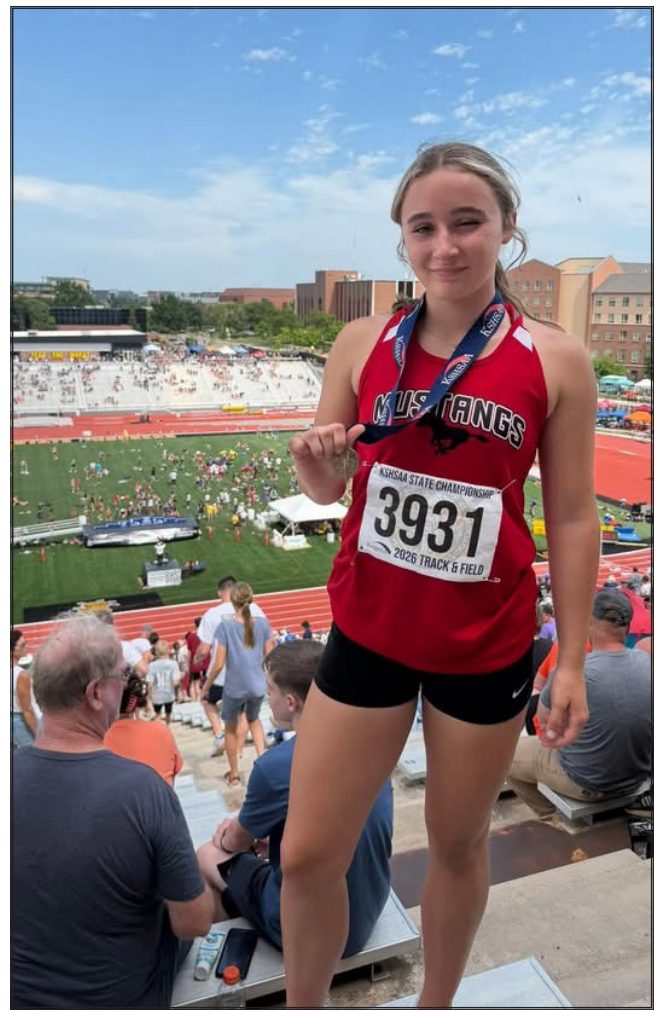
BREONNA PETERSON



BEN BELL



VANCE DOHL



CODIE HUEHL



JEREMIAH MILLER



XAVIER MILLER

## Leopards Finish Strong at State Sand Greens



The Lincoln High School golf team earned a fourth-place finish at the 2026 State Sand Greens Golf Tournament. Leading the way for the Leopards were medalists Clay Bates (Above Left), who placed fifth overall, and Kadin Schneider (Above Right), who finished ninth. The strong team performance capped off an impressive season on the links.

(L-R) Jordan Meyer, Kadin Schneider, Clay Bates, Coach Drew Falcon, Ben Bell and Gabe Esposito represented Lincoln High School.



**SPICE UP YOUR LIFE - LINDSAY YOUNG**

**Oven mistake? Just keep calm and 'berry' on**



Fresh strawberry cookies are perfect to make when ripe strawberries are in season. They feature a sugar cookie base, with pops of sweet fresh fruit throughout. They're a perfect summer dessert.

When I graduated from college and rented my own home for the very first time, I decided that I would do my darnedest to cook meals for myself as much as possible and avoid premade stuff from the freezer section.

I remember one of the first times I fired up the stove, heating some oil to fry something or other. I was shocked to turn around and see flames shooting out of the pan.

Luckily, my mom trained me well, and I knew to smother the fire and kill the heat, but I was completely confused. I had never managed to start a fire in the kitchen before.

Then, I made some cookies for the first time and burned them to a crisp, and I suddenly realized that not all ovens are made equally—and this one could maybe double as a kiln. I had to be careful the whole time I lived there.

This week, when I made some strawberry cookies in my own oven. They were spreading out really quickly, and they were way softer than they should be. I kept trying to figure out what in the world I did wrong with the dough, even tossing it in the fridge at one point, but I should have remembered the oven lesson I learned years ago.

I made a double batch of the cookies, and each pan just kept having a strange bake. It wasn't until I went to turn off the oven that I realized I was using the "quick bake" setting by accident. Oops.

Despite mine turning out a little weird, these cookies were really yummy and perfect for a summer get-together. The recipe comes from the blog "Luxe Beauty." You can find the original post at <https://www.beauty-luxe.com/soft-chewy-strawberry-cookies/>. I added extra vanilla in my version.

**Fresh Strawberry Cookies**

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup fresh strawberries, diced

**Directions**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, and prepare a couple baking sheets by lining them with parchment pa-

per, and set them aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat the butter and sugar until the mixture is light yellow and fluffy.

Beat in the egg and vanilla, and then beat in the flour, baking soda and salt.

Finish by folding in the diced strawberries.

Drop the dough by the tablespoonful onto your prepared baking sheets, leaving about two inches between each cookie.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until the edges are set and the cookies are light brown.

Let the cookies cool on a baking sheet before transferring them to an airtight container.

These were delicious. They had pops of fruit, combined with a very nice sugar cookie base.

And if you want them to be fall-apart soft, you can always try baking them with convection, too, although I don't recommend it.

Luckily, our friends don't mind some slightly ugly cookies, and they helped clean up all the evidence of my oven mishap.

I figure soft cookies are superior to the burnt kind, though, so it was probably a win. Plus, I don't think I'll be making that same mistake again any time soon.

*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).*

**PRAIRIE DOC BY KORY ZIMNEY, PT, DPT, PhD**

**Understanding the Ups and Downs of Pain During Recovery**

Many equate pain with injury and thus assume that pain should be a straight line when recovering. So, if pain flares up a bit, they worry that something is wrong. Maybe the injury is getting worse, or they "overdid it" the day before. In reality, pain often rises and falls during normal recovery, and these ups and downs do not automatically mean you're injuring yourself. Pain is more complex than a simple measure of tissue damage.

**Healing tissues and a sensitive alarm system**

Pain is best thought of as your body's alarm system. Early after an injury or surgery, that alarm is turned up on purpose to protect healing tissues. Even as the tissues recover normally, the alarm may remain slightly sensitive for a while. This means everyday movements, increased activity, or changes in routine can trigger pain, even when the tissues themselves are safe.

This sensitivity usually settles with time, movement and confidence. A short-term increase in pain does not automatically mean damage has occurred. It often reflects a nervous system that's still learning what is safe again.

**Next day pain**

Pain that shows up later, such as soreness the next day, is often blamed on "overdoing it." While extreme overload can contribute to flare-ups, changes in pain from one day to the next are often a normal response to increased movement. Your body adapts to activity gradually, and mild soreness or stiffness can be part of

that process, especially when trying something new or returning to activities you've avoided.

Pain levels don't always match how well your body is healing. You are recovering successfully, even on days when pain feels worse.

**Stress, sleep and mood matter**

Your nervous system doesn't work in isolation. Poor sleep, emotional stress, worry or fatigue can increase pain sensitivity. We often say, "You're getting on my nerves" when someone stresses us out. Biologically, that's true. Stressful events release chemicals that make nerves more sensitive. On stressful days, the pain alarm becomes easier to trigger, which is why pain may spike during busy weeks, after poor sleep or during emotional strain without any change in the injury itself.

These influences are real and biological; they are not imagined or "in your head."

**Your body's healing chemistry**

Your body naturally produces both pro-inflammatory chemicals (which increase sensitivity) and anti-inflammatory chemicals (which reduce sensitivity) as part of the healing process. This balance shifts from day to day, like a teeter-totter. Some days you may feel more sensitive, and other days less so. These shifts are a normal part of recovery and help explain why pain often fluctuates.

**Pain doesn't equal harm**

One of the most important principles of recovery is this: pain does not always

mean damage. Pain is often a sign of sensitivity rather than danger. Gradually continuing to move, even with some discomfort, is often part of restoring normal function and confidence.

**When to check in**

While fluctuating pain is common, steadily worsening pain, new symptoms or pain accompanied by significant swelling, weakness or loss of function should be discussed with a health care provider. Otherwise, ups and downs are a normal and expected part of recovery.

Healing isn't about eliminating every painful moment. It's about helping your body and nervous system feel safe enough to move forward, one step at a time.

*Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD is a professor at the University of South Dakota, School of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Department and director of the PhD in Health Science program. Dr. Zimney is part of the Center for Brain and Behavioral Research at the University of South Dakota and the Therapeutic Neuroscience Research Group, conducting research specifically in the areas of pain science and therapeutic alliance. 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).*

**New Kansas State Record for Longnose Gar**

PRATT – Kansas has a new state record longnose gar, ending a record that had stood for more than 50 years.

On April 18, 2026, Michael Barnett of Baxter Springs landed a 33.6-pound, 63-inch-long longnose gar while bowfishing the Spring River near Baxter Springs.

Barnett's catch broke the previous Kansas state record longnose gar – a 31.5-pound fish caught in 1974 by Ray Schroeder of Topeka below Perry Reservoir using a rod and reel with a yellow beetle lure.

Fishing with his son, Barnett knew he had encountered an exceptional fish as soon as it surfaced.

"When I saw it come out of the water, I knew it was big," said Barnett. "I had my son put another arrow in to make sure we reeled it in. We weighed it, looked up the state record, and realized it weighed a bit more."

KDWP Game Warden Scott Leamon met with Barnett and helped him through the state record process. District Fisheries Biologist Connor Ossowski later met with Barnett in person to confirm the species identification and measurements.

"It's not every day you get to verify a fish that breaks a state record that has stood for more than 50 years,"

said Ossowski. "This was an impressive fish and a great example of the opportunities anglers have in Kansas waters."

Longnose gar are one of Kansas' most unique native fish species, known for their long, narrow snouts filled with sharp teeth. While gar can grow large in Kansas waters, fish of this size are rarely seen.

**How State Records are Set**

Trophy catches such as these become Kansas State Records if:

- The fish is a species recognized on the current list of Kansas state record fish
- The fish is caught by a licensed angler using legal means
- The fish is identified by a KDWP district fisheries biologist or regional fisheries supervisor
- The fish is weighed on a certified scale prior to being frozen
- The fish is photographed in color and a state record application is submitted
- A mandatory 30-day waiting period has passed

View the complete list of Kansas state record fish at [ksoutdoors.gov/record-fish](http://ksoutdoors.gov/record-fish).

If you land a trophy fish that doesn't break a state record, you may still qualify for a Master An-

gler Award. Learn more at [ksoutdoors.gov/record-fish](http://ksoutdoors.gov/record-fish).

For more on fishing in Kansas, visit [ksoutdoors.gov/fishing](http://ksoutdoors.gov/fishing).

(<https://www.ksoutdoors.gov/Home/Components/News/News/34/346>)



Michael Barnett of Baxter Springs landed a 33.6-pound, 63-inch-long longnose gar on April 18, 2026, while fishing the Spring River near Baxter Springs, ending a state record that stood for more than 50 years. Photo contributed by Michael Barnett.

**URGENT CALL: Blood and platelet donors needed now**

**Alarming drop in scheduled donations puts national blood supply under pressure \$15 e-gift card for coming to give June 1-28**

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for donors and is counting on people to act now and book a time to give lifesaving blood or platelets. Donors of all blood types are essential in keeping the blood supply strong enough to withstand summer challenges.

Scheduled donations, which account for 90% of all blood donations, have dropped sharply in recent weeks. As a result, the blood supply has fallen by several thousand units in just a week, raising concerns that the decline could worsen as we enter trauma season. This period between Memorial Day and Labor Day brings an increase in severe injuries from car accidents, ATV crashes, sports related injuries and other summer activities. In fact, AAA reports that fatal crashes involving teen drivers rise by 30% during this time, often called the "100 deadliest days." A single person injured in a serious car accident can require up to 100 units of blood.

"For a person suffering from severe bleeding – and the emergency medical responders caring for them – stopping the bleeding and stabilizing them is a race against an unforgiving clock," says Dr. Emily Coberly, medical director for the Red Cross. "Every minute matters. For each minute that passes without blood transfusion, the risk of death increases by 11% for patients suffering from hemorrhagic shock. That's why having a readily available blood supply is critical."

Securing appointments in the coming weeks is critical to maintaining a healthy blood supply for all patients depending on transfusions. Make an appointment to give now by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Donors who come to give blood June 1-28, 2026, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7500 gift cards. See [RedCrossBlood.org/June](http://RedCrossBlood.org/June) for details.

**Summer challenges**

A sharp drop in scheduled donations is especially troubling now, during a season when blood collection can be difficult due to end of the school-year activities, travel and school breaks, as well as severe weather and heat that can disrupt blood drives entirely. Large-scale sporting events in the coming months can also add pressure to the blood supply at a time when every donation is crucial.

Now is the time to make and keep blood or platelet donation appointments to ensure blood products are readily available for people living with chronic illness, new mothers, surgery patients and those facing traumatic injuries.

"Every unit of lifesaving blood on an ambulance, emergency medical helicopter or in a hospital didn't get there by accident. It's there because someone rolled up their sleeve to give blood," adds Coberly.

**How to donate blood**

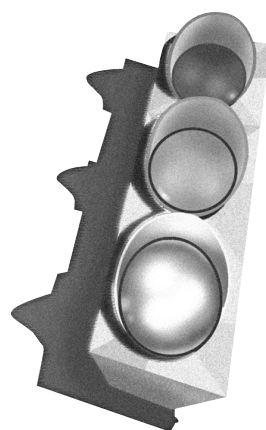
Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

**About the American Red Cross:**

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org), or follow us on social media.

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## Neighbor to Neighbor announces transition to new ownership

CONCORDIA, KANSAS—Neighbor to Neighbor Women's Center will transition to new ownership this summer, as Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas assumes operations in July 2026.

Neighbor to Neighbor was established in 2010 after the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia purchased the building at 103 East 6th Street with a vision of offering compassionate service to the community. Built in 1888, the historic property has served many purposes over the years—from a bar and roller skating rink to an auto dealership, Sears Catalog Center, and most recently, a TV and appliance store. Following extensive renovations, it reopened as a welcoming space dedicated to supporting women and children and addressing unmet needs within the community.

Over the years, Neighbor to Neighbor has become both a part of the neighborhood and a place that fosters community. Children have been welcomed into its spacious playroom and monthly "Reading with Friends"

story times, where families receive free books and are encouraged to cultivate a love of reading. Adults have found opportunities for connection and growth through retreats, educational programs, and classes, as well as access to essential services such as laundry facilities.

From its earliest days, Neighbor to Neighbor has been sustained by the generous support of the community and friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Grants, donations, volunteer service, and shared talents have all played a vital role in bringing its mission to life. The Sisters remain deeply grateful for this enduring support.

"Serving at Neighbor to Neighbor with Sisters Pat, Jean, and Ramona and Myrna Shelton was a wonderful experience. These women taught me so much about seeing, appreciating, and serving the dear neighbor with great respect and deep appreciation. The daily experience of meeting our women and children has been a reminder of God's presence in so many ways. I will really miss

these encounters," said Sister Missy Ljungdahl, CSJ, current Administrative Assistant.

While community needs have evolved since Neighbor to Neighbor first opened its doors, the need for compassionate, accessible services remains. Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas is prepared to continue and expand this important work.

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas is honored to continue the legacy of service established by the Sisters of St. Joseph through Neighbor to Neighbor in Concordia. Guided by its mission to provide compassionate service to all people in need, Catholic Charities serves individuals and families across 31 counties in north central and northwest Kansas, offering assistance with personal care and basic needs, financial and housing support, and pregnancy and adoption services—regardless of faith or background.

Beginning July 1, Neighbor to Neighbor will become Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas in Concordia, transitioning into a family support center and ex-

panding the organization's presence in the region. This next chapter reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that vital services remain available and accessible for those who need them most in Cloud County and surrounding communities.

While the name will change, many of the programs and services the community has come to rely on will continue. The Reading with Friends program will remain in place, and shower and laundry services will still be available by appointment. Other legacy services will also continue, ensuring continuity of care for individuals and families who depend on them.

To allow for a thoughtful transition, the facility will temporarily close during the month of July following the change in ownership. Catholic Charities plans to reopen the location in the fall, with additional details to be shared in the coming months.

"We are deeply grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph for their trust and partnership in this transition," said Megan Robl,

Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas. "Their legacy of compassion and service has made a lasting impact in Concordia. We are honored to build upon that foundation and are excited to expand our reach to better serve individuals and families in this community and the surrounding areas."

Catholic Charities emphasizes that this transition is rooted in collaboration and continuity. The organization looks forward to working alongside local partners and agencies to support existing services and strengthen the network of care available in Concordia.

Community members are invited to a public open house at Neighbor to Neighbor, 103 East 6th Street, on Friday, June 5, 2026, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

As plans move forward, Catholic Charities will share more information about services, programs, and reopening details. Community members with questions are encouraged to contact the Catholic Charities Salina office at 785-825-0208.

## Decline in local newspapers reshapes corporate social responsibility, research finds

LAWRENCE — Corporate social responsibility (CSR) describes a business model, strategy or philosophy in which companies integrate social and environmental concerns into their operations and interactions with stakeholders.

But what happens if evidence of that behavior isn't adequately passed on to the public due to shrinking media coverage?

"Local newspapers are uniquely embedded within communities. They operate under a distinct community-oriented logic that shapes both accountability and visibility," said Jun Ho Lee, assistant professor of strategy and international business at the University of Kansas.

His new article, "When the Headlines Fade, the Story Goes On: Investigating How Local Newspaper Decline Affects Firm CSR Engagement," finds that the decline of local newspapers reduces both external oversight and public visibility, weakening the pressures and incentives for companies to maintain corporate social responsibility engagement. The study further shows that changes in the local information environment shape how firms strategically adjust behaviors sensitive

to scrutiny and public recognition. The article is published in *Organization Science*.

Co-written by Zhiyan Wu of Zhejiang University in China and Michael Bednar of the University of Illinois, the article notes that prior research on local newspaper decline typically focuses on the loss of monitoring and the resulting increase in agency problems or corporate misconduct. In contrast, this research argues that local newspapers historically played dual roles: They not only monitored firms but also enhanced firms' prominence and legitimacy within communities.

"You can perceive CSR as more of a normative behavior, and if corporations want to be a good citizen in our society, they are supposed to behave responsibly. That is a baseline assumption. But in reality, CSR is very complex behavior. It's often not a moral thing; it's a strategic thing," Lee said.

That includes managing stakeholder perceptions and maintaining legitimacy. Therefore, when local newspapers decline and firms experience changes in external scrutiny and visibility, CSR becomes a particularly useful outcome for examining how

firms adapt to evolving informational environments, he said.

Lee emphasized how a lot of scholars have focused on the role of media in corporate activity. Yet they primarily focus on the watchdog aspect.

"We not only shed a light on this monitor role of a local newspaper but also pay attention to media as a visibility enhancer in corporate behavior," he said. "Based upon that conventional wisdom in prior research, you might intuitively predict that corporations with a limited oversight by local media — due to the decline of the newspapers — feel less pressure and are more likely to increase in misconduct."

But that intuition isn't exactly correct, Lee said. The researchers clarified corporate response through two main contributions:

The article reconciles competing predictions regarding how media affects CSR by confirming that the decline of local newspapers can increase or decrease CSR, depending on the broader informational environment.

It extends the growing literature on local media and corporate behavior by moving beyond a pure monitoring perspective

and theorizing the dual roles of oversight and visibility.

"More broadly, the paper shows how governance operates not only through direct monitoring but through visibility and social evaluation within informational environments," Lee said.

To establish these findings, Lee and his colleagues combined info from the United States Newspaper Panel and the Editor and Publisher Yearbook. This data set tracked changes in daily newspaper availability across U.S. counties from 1996 to 2014, identifying 204 counties that experienced various forms of decrease, including transitions to nondaily publications, mergers and permanent closures.

"We are in the middle of the disruption of the media industry landscape, not only due to technological innovation but also social, political and environmental change," he said. "So every single reader has a different perception as well as expectation toward the media industry compared to previous eras."

If Lee were the CEO of a company with strong ties to a local community, he reveals how the information from his research could be applied:

"We need to shed a light on those

dual functions of media, not only conventional wisdom being the watchdog role but additionally using media to promote the reputation, visibility or legitimacy of our behavior," he said.

A KU faculty member since 2018, Lee researches how external governance mechanisms shape firm behavior and strategic decision-making. His work sits at the intersection of strategic management, corporate governance and international business.

"Ever since my Ph.D. education, I've been interested in the relationship between the media and corporate behavior," Lee said.

The professor said he still firmly believes in the role of a local newspaper as watchdog.

"But at the same time, we need to acknowledge the mutual beneficial relationship between the local media and local companies, even if it might seem adversarial on the surface," he said. "Because both of them are local community members. In general, they both want to promote well-being in the community."

(5/26/26 <https://news.ku.edu/news/article/decline-in-local-newspapers-reshapes-corporate-social-responsibility-study-finds>)

## June 1 Smoky Hills PBA newsletter

### SHPBA Survey:

There is a SHPBA Survey that will only take 3 minutes of your time that we would like for you to take:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KR9QMJY>

It will help the board of directors plan future work:

### Ticks:

There was a time when red cedar was all we were concerned about for prescribed burning. Then came the invasion of Old World Bluestem. And now, the mild winter created an infestation of ticks.

As tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease, Alpha-Gal, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever continue to rise, land managers and researchers are increasingly turning to an ancient ecological tool for modern public health:

prescribed burning. While controlled fires are traditionally used to clear underbrush and revitalize soil, they are proving to be exceptionally effective at suppressing tick populations through both direct and indirect mechanisms.

The immediate benefit of a prescribed fire is direct mortality. Ticks have limited mobility and cannot outrun a moving fire line. High-intensity heat—specifically temperatures exceeding 200°C for even just a few seconds—easily obliterates ticks at all life stages, from microscopic larvae to adults.

However, the long-term, indirect benefits of controlled burns are what truly disrupt the tick life cycle. Ticks are highly sensitive to dehydration and require a humid, moisture-rich microclimate to survive. They typically find this refuge in

dense prairie that litter and thick undergrowth. Prescribed burns consume this accumulated organic biomass, exposing the prairie floor to direct sunlight and increased wind speeds. This environmental shift raises temperatures and lowers humidity, rendering the habitat dangerously dry for surviving ticks and drastically reducing their ability to search for hosts, a behavior known as "questing."

Furthermore, regular fire maintenance reshapes the local wildlife dynamics. By thinning dense brush, prescribed fires eliminate the protective cover required by small rodents, such as mice, which serve as primary reservoirs for tick-borne pathogens. With less cover, rodent populations decline due to increased predator visibility, meaning fewer hosts

are available to sustain the tick population.

Studies show that lone-treatment burns offer only temporary relief, as ticks can quickly re-enter an area via mobile hosts like deer. However, implementing a consistent, long-term rotational burning regime can reduce tick density by up to 60 to 90 percent compared to unburned areas, making prescribed fire an invaluable, eco-friendly weapon in integrated tick management.

### Summer burning:

If you are interested in a summer burn, please contact SHPBA now and let's get your burn on the map. These are the SVHE burn plans for August. Paul R. Finnell, Sr.'s burn will be for controlling the Old World Bluestem. If you are interested in helping me, let him

know. He will burn around August 12th. His will be a back fire burn. A back burn will take several hours. Contact the others to let them know you are interested in supporting them.

### Burn Plans:

Mr. Finnell is now a contractor for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts writing Burn plans. I will be assisting the USDA clients in the Smoky Hills. If you are in need of a burn plan, have your county Smoky Hills USDA office contact me.

### Great Plains Fire

### Summit:

A couple of the board members will be attending this summit. If you are interested in attending, visit the URL [bit.ly/FireSummit2026](http://bit.ly/FireSummit2026)